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Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 17
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

(Programme 15 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001)

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* The present document contains section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

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Section 17
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

(Programme 15 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001)

Overview

17.1 ESCAP is responsible for the implementation of the programme. The activities are carried out at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre located in Vanuatu.

17.2 The financial and economic crisis, which occurred in a number of East and South-East Asian countries in the second half of 1997, brought in its wake sharp currency devaluation and rising inflation, recession, unemployment and poverty levels in the region. The crisis had an adverse impact on the progress achieved in many areas of social development over the last two decades in the region and on the lives of millions of people, especially the most vulnerable. The crisis clearly demonstrates that globalization and liberalization offer both opportunities for growth and attendant risks, especially for less developed countries. In the process, it poses the risk of polarization of countries and societies into two groups: a minority with capital and skills who are able to flourish in the global market place and a majority who are unable to partake of the benefits. Therefore, the major challenges facing countries in Asia and the Pacific in the twenty-first century will be to ensure that all countries and segments of the population can share equitably the fruits of economic and social development and to enhance the capability of the developing countries to access the opportunities, as well as to anticipate and respond to the risks, which accompany the continuing globalization and liberalization process. As economic and social development are inextricably linked, sustained development can only be effected through broad-based social investment and capacity-building. Emphasis will be placed on improving the capacity of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the countries with economies in transition to integrate them more fully into the region's dynamic development and enhance their participation in international development in the economic and social fields.

17.3 The Commission acknowledged the serious implications of the financial and economic crisis and revised the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 accordingly (see A/53/6/Rev.1, programme 15). It was also concerned with the depth and duration of the crisis. The programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 reflects a streamlined programme structure, with a reduction from the existing 10 subprogrammes to 7, in conformity with the revised conference structure as approved by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, held in April 1998. The efforts to rationalize the structure of the ESCAP secretariat in line with the revised programme structure and the consequent mergers and consolidation of functions and redeployments of resources to priority areas are featured in the proposed programme budget of ESCAP for the biennium 2000–2001.

17.4 The programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 pertaining to subprogrammes 3 through 7 was reviewed by the respective legislative committees in September and November 1998. The draft programme of work of ESCAP was reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at its 232nd session, in January 1999, and will be further reviewed by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, scheduled for 22 to 28 April 1999.

17.5 The outcome of the assessment by Governments in response to the 1997 questionnaire on the regular budget resource allocations of ESCAP to the 1996–1997 programme of work and the subsequent mandates and priorities of the Commission in 1997 and 1998 specifically called for allocation of additional regular budget resources to: (a) statistics; (b) tourism development; (c) development research and policy analysis, specifically for research analysis of the effects of the economic and financial crises and the formulation of recommendations on ways and means for countries to respond to the crisis and to minimize the attendant risks; and (d) social policy and integration of disadvantaged groups and women in development. A

reallocation of regular budget staff and non-staff resources is proposed to strengthen these four areas in the proposed programme budget of ESCAP for the biennium 2000–2001, as shown in table 17.7.

17.6 The overall objective of the programme is to assist member and associate member Governments to respond more effectively and efficiently to the global environment, which has an impact on the region, as well as to the rapidly changing environment within the region itself. ESCAP will continue to focus on the three major themes:

(a) Regional economic cooperation. The emphasis will be on strengthening national capacity to deal with the economic volatility associated with participation in the globalization process and on enhancement of trade efficiency to increase competitiveness in the international market place in order to keep pace with the process of globalization, including through industrial restructuring and technological capability-building, as well as the promotion of foreign direct investment;

(b) Poverty alleviation. The emphasis will be on enhancing national capacity to plan and deliver services to meet the basic needs of the poor and to provide them with the skills and foundation enabling them to participate meaningfully in development;

(c) Environment and natural resources development. The emphasis will be on promoting sustainable development and use of natural resources, regional cooperation on transboundary environmental issues, and prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. ESCAP will also seek to promote efficient, reliable and cost-effective development and operation of transport infrastructure and services. Support will also be rendered to enhancing national statistical systems, in particular in meeting the additional demand for data created by the financial crisis and developing comparable regional data on the incidence and severity of poverty.

17.7 The programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 will emphasize: (a) research and analysis of the effects of the economic and financial crisis and formulation of recommendations on ways and means for countries to respond to the crisis and to minimize the attendant risks; (b) technical assistance activities, especially those with the potential for strong multiplier effects, including advisory services; (c) broader and more efficient means of information dissemination through the ESCAP Web site and databases; and (d) sharing of experience among countries through technical cooperation among developing countries, South-South cooperation and networking.

17.8 In accordance with the policy directives of the General Assembly, efforts will be intensified towards gender mainstreaming in the programme of work. This will include implementing a plan of action for gender mainstreaming, building capacity for gender analysis through in-house training and developing and improving sex-disaggregated databases and gender statistics. Gender concerns will be reflected in the programme of work in sectors such as poverty alleviation, rural development, population, small business and entrepreneurship development, skills development and technology transfer.

17.9 ESCAP will continue to serve as an important link in the integrated follow-up of the plans of action adopted by global conferences, and efforts will be exerted to further strengthen cooperation with United Nations and non-United Nations regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, including enhancement of collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the formation of strategic alliances with major institutions in implementing the work of the Commission.

17.10 ESCAP will continue to rationalize its publication programme. As a result of the review by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission of recurrent ESCAP publications for 1998–1999, the readership survey was made mandatory for all ESCAP publications and the Publications Committee, which was established in 1993 but had not met since early 1994, was reconstituted. The Publications Committee has completed the guide to ESCAP publications activities to assist the ESCAP secretariat in preparing publications and to contribute to the overall improvement in the quality of ESCAP publications.

17.11 It should be noted, however, that a number of member and associate member Governments of the Commission, in particular the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, have expressed their concern over the shift in the mode of information dissemination from traditional publications to electronic issuance, namely, the Internet. They cautioned that a large proportion of the intended audience in these countries was not yet adequately equipped with the necessary information technology hardware. They therefore requested the secretariat to ensure that the needs of the primary end-users of ESCAP technical publications in those countries be met.

17.12 The overall level of resources of $56,457,900 proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 reflects a 0.3 per cent reduction of $218,000. The reduction is the result of a range of adjustments under various objects of expenditure as follows:

(a) A reduction of $896,100 in resources for posts owing to (i) the delayed impact of the abolition of 24 posts midway through the biennium 1998–1999; (ii) the reclassification of one P-4 post to P-5 to implement the post classification level for the chief of the Editorial Section and of one Field Service post to P-4 to supervise the Technical Services Unit within the Electronic Services Section and to undertake the functions required to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/52/776, para. 69) as regards the establishment of an independent security function within the Electronic Services Section with overall responsibility for the security of the Commission's technological environment;

(b) An increase in non-post resources of $678,100 as follows: (i) $209,800 for other staff costs; (ii) $178,800 for consultants and experts; (iii) $4,900 for travel; (iv) $70,200 for contractual services; (v) $60,800 for general operating expenses; (vi) $3,800 for hospitality; and (vii) $182,300 for furniture and equipment; offset by a reduction of $32,500 for supplies and materials.

17.13 The estimated percentage distribution of the resources of ESCAP in 2000–2001 would be as follows:

	Regular budget	*Extra-budgetary*
	(percentage)	
A. Policy-making organs	1.7	–
B. Executive direction and management	4.2	0.2
C. Programme of work	45.7	66.2
D. Programme support	48.4	33.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 17.1 **Summary of requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
A. Policy-making organs	582.5	824.2	109.2	13.2	933.4	90.9	1 024.3
B. Executive direction and management	3 404.1	2 350.9	23.3	0.9	2 374.2	262.6	2 636.8
C. Programme of work	28 178.2	26 141.1	(320.9)	(1.2)	25 820.2	2 472.9	28 293.1
D. Programme support	28 824.7	27 359.7	(29.6)	(0.1)	27 330.1	5 188.3	32 518.4
Total	**60 989.5**	**56 675.9**	**(218.0)**	**(0.3)**	**56 457.9**	**8 014.7**	**64 472.6**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 estimates	Source of funds	2000–2001 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
3 185.8	2 754.7	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	2 387.7
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
5 605.6	1 564.8	UNDP	–
3 359.4	2 385.5	UNFPA	2 300.0
15 563.3	17 893.1	Bilateral and other resources	16 680.6
Total	**27 714.1**	**24 598.1**	**21 368.3**
Total (1) and (2)	**88 703.6**	**81.274.0**	**85 840.9**

Table 17.2 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	2000–2001 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	52 361.2	48 784.5	(896.1)	(1.8)	47 888.4	6 902.0	54 790.4
Other staff costs	587.9	958.9	209.8	21.8	1 168.7	169.3	1 338.0
Consultants and experts	439.2	381.8	178.8	46.8	560.6	81.3	641.9
Travel	748.6	1 330.1	4.9	0.3	1 335.0	64.8	1 399.8
Contractual services	432.7	398.2	70.2	17.6	468.4	67.6	536.0
General operating expenses	4 657.5	3 350.3	60.8	1.8	3 411.1	494.3	3 905.4
Hospitality	18.2	14.6	3.8	26.0	18.4	2.7	21.1
Supplies and materials	539.8	582.5	(32.5)	(5.5)	550.0	79.6	629.6
Furniture and equipment	1 204.4	875.0	182.3	20.8	1 057.3	153.1	1 210.4
Total	**60 989.5**	**56 675.9**	**(218.0)**	**(0.3)**	**56 457.9**	**8 014.7**	**64 472.6**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 estimates	Object of expenditure	2000–2001 estimates
4 892.3	2 568.1	Posts	2 782.7
1 571.0	2 460.3	Other staff costs	3 290.8
4 381.4	6 258.9	Consultants and experts	2 283.3
1 562.9	1 214.2	Travel	1 112.6
3 943.4	1 348.3	Contractual services	159.7
938.0	1 097.9	General operating expenses	452.7
173.6	537.2	Supplies and materials	345.1
271.9	33.0	Furniture and equipment	9.0
–	–	Grants and contributions	361 7
9 979.6	9 080.2	Other	10 570.7
Total	**27 714.1**	**24 598.1**	**21 368.3**
Total (1) and (2)	**88 703.6**	**81 274.0**	**85 840.9**

Table 17.3 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-2	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-1	11	11	–	–	–	–	11	11
P-5	28	29	–	–	14	4	42	33
P-4/3	101	101	–	–	13	4	114	105
P-2/1	29	29	–	–	–	–	29	29
Total	**171**	**172**	**–**	**–**	**27**	**8**	**198**	**180**
Other categories								
Local level	296	296	–	–	43	43	339	339
Field Service	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Total	**297**	**296**	**–**	**–**	**43**	**43**	**340**	**339**
Grand total	**468**	**468**	**–**	**–**	**70**	**51**	**538**	**519**

A. Policy-making organs

Table 17.4 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Other staff costs	226.7	265.8	50.0	18.8	315.8	45.7	361.5
Consultants and experts	62.7	13.9	58.4	420.1	72.3	10.4	82.7
Travel	206.1	457.7	(16.8)	(3.5)	458.9	22.3	481.2
Contractual services	31.8	41.9	13.8	32.9	55.7	8.0	63.7
General operating expenses	26.8	8.3	–	–	8.3	1.2	9.5
Hospitality	8.6	4.3	3.8	88.3	8.1	1.2	9.3
Supplies and materials	19.8	14.3	–	–	14.3	2.1	16.4
Total	**582.5**	**824.2**	**109.2**	**13.2**	**933.4**	**90.9**	**1 024.3**

17.14 The Commission, which has 51 member and 9 associate member countries and territories, provides overall direction to the work of the secretariat and reports to the Economic and Social Council. It holds regular annual sessions of up to six working days, each session comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment. The intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission comprises three thematic committees, namely, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; two other committees, namely, the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development and the Committee on Statistics; and two special

bodies, the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may also be held during the biennium. In addition to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, an Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by the Commission meets each month to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in the exercise of his functions and to liaise between the Commission and the secretariat. Meetings of the Commission, its committees and special bodies are normally held at the United Nations Conference Centre at Bangkok.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Other staff costs

17.15 An estimated amount of $315,800, reflecting an increase of $50,000, is requested for temporary assistance for meetings, in particular for interpretation and translation required in connection with the annual sessions of the Commission and meetings of committees, intergovernmental and special bodies, and ad hoc ministerial conferences.

Consultants and experts

17.16 An estimated amount of $72,300, reflecting an increase of $58,400, is requested as follows: (a) $13,900, at maintenance level, to provide expertise in connection with the preparation of special thematic studies; and (b) $58,400 to provide for a panel discussion as part of the ministerial segment of the annual session of the Commission.

Travel

17.17 An estimated amount of $458,900, reflecting a reduction of $16,800, is requested for the travel costs of conference-servicing staff from Headquarters and/or Geneva to service the Commission sessions and other meetings held under the auspices of ESCAP.

Contractual services

17.18 An estimated amount of $55,700, reflecting an increase of $13,800, is requested to provide for editorial services during periods of peak workload, in particular for the Commission's pre-session documentation, all the documentation of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation and the annual publication of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, and to provide for printing costs of the special thematic studies mandated by the Commission.

General operating expenses

17.19 An amount of $8,300, at maintenance level, is requested for miscellaneous services associated with the annual sessions of the Commission.

Hospitality

17.20 Resources for official hospitality extended on behalf of the organization to delegations and participants to the annual sessions of the Commission are proposed at $8,100, reflecting an increase of $3,800 to cover hospitality for its subsidiary bodies.

Supplies and materials

17.21 An estimated amount of $14,300, at maintenance level, is proposed for supplies and materials for holding the Commission sessions and other meetings.

B. Executive direction and management

Table 17.5 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 271.3	2 142.3	–	–	2 142.3	249.6	2 391.9
Consultants and experts	0.2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Travel	121.5	190.4	23.3	12.2	213.7	10.4	224.1
Contractual services	9.7	13.3	–	–	13.3	1.9	15.2
Supplies and materials	1.4	4.9	–	–	4.9	0.7	5.6
Total	**3 404.1**	**2 350.9**	**23.3**	**0.9**	**2 374.2**	**262.6**	**2 636.8**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
60.4	53.7	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	45.7
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
–	–	Bilateral sources	–
60.4	**53.7**	**Total**	**45.7**
3 464.5	**2 404.6**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**2 682.5**

Table 17.6 **Post requirements**

Programme: Executive direction and management

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998-1999	*2000-2001*	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-2	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
P-4/3	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
Total	**7**	**7**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**7**	**7**
Other categories								
Local level	10	10	–	–	1	1	11	11
Total	**10**	**10**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**	**11**	**11**
Grand total	**17**	**17**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**	**18**	**18**

17.22 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides overall direction, supervision and management of the secretariat, as well as substantive and support services to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. It promotes economic and social development and regional cooperation among the member and associate member countries of the Commission through the implementation of its legislative mandates and the approved programme of work.

17.23 To harmonize the budget presentation of the regional commissions, the programme of work and the resources required for the United Nations Information Services (UNIS) have been redeployed from programme support to executive direction and management. UNIS has two roles. It serves as an information service for ESCAP, and it has also been designated, on behalf of the Department of Public Information, as the United Nations information centre for Cambodia; Hong Kong, China; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Singapore; Thailand; and Viet Nam. UNIS serves the Commission by providing full coverage of its work, as well as United Nations meetings and observances held at Commission headquarters, to ensure a coherent and visible image of the United Nations and to gain public support for the social and economic work of the United Nations in the region. It also acts as a local and regional clearinghouse for public information products produced by the Department of Public Information.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.24 The estimated requirements of $2,142,300 would provide for the continuation of 17 established posts, as shown in table 17.6.

Travel

17.25 An estimated requirement of $213,700, reflecting an increase of $23,300, is proposed as follows: (a) $198,800 for travel of the Executive Secretary and his immediate staff to attend meetings within and outside the region for consultations with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, for coordination with other United Nations entities and to represent the Secretary-General, as required, and (b) $14,900 for UNIS staff to perform designated functions on behalf of the Department of Public Information for seven countries/areas and its work for ESCAP in the region, as well as a biennial

visit to United Nations Headquarters to hold consultations or attend briefings with the Department of Public Information and to represent UNIS/ESCAP at international conferences or United Nations observances organized by the Secretariat at the United Nations Headquarters. The additional resources proposed are the net effect of an increase in travel requirements by $24,800 in connection with coordination activities, such as those for the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and the Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC), and the reduction of travel resources for UNIS by $1,500.

Contractual services

17.26 The amount of $13,300, at maintenance level, would provide for (a) the preparation of an updated *Profile of ESCAP* and the production of a quarterly inter-agency newsletter *United Nations Asia-Pacific News* and *United Nations Focus*, as well as media kits and leaflets; and (b) professional assistance for photographic production, audio/visual film production and the preparation/mounting of exhibition materials.

Supplies and materials

17.27 The amount of $4,900, at maintenance level, would provide for photographic film, supplies for special events and other supplies required for the distribution of information materials.

C. Programme of work

Table 17.7 **Summary of requirements by programme**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Subprogramme	1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	2000–2001 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
1. Regional economic cooperation	5 591.1	5 412.8	(626.3)	(11.5)	4 786.5	505.1	5 291.6
2. Development research and policy analysis	3 448.3	3 672.2	200.0	5.4	3 872.2	364.8	4 237.0
3. Social development	2 731.7	2 746.0	428.1	15.5	3 174.1	271.9	3 446.0
4. Population and rural and urban development	3 835.8	3 373.3	(284.4)	(8.4)	3 088.9	285.5	3 374.4
5. Environment and natural resources development	6 459.8	5 185.6	(262.4)	(5.0)	4 923.2	434.6	5 357.8
6. Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	3 675.3	3 543.8	98.2	2.7	3 642.0	310.8	3 952.8
7. Statistics	2 436.2	2 207.4	125.9	5.7	2 333.3	300.2	2 633.5
Total	**28 178.2**	**26 141.1**	**(320.9)**	**(1.2)**	**25 820.2**	**2 472.9**	**28 293.1**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
5 605.6	1 564.8	UNDP	–
3 244.7	2 385.5	UNFPA	2 300.0
–	–	UNIFEM	–
16 987.1	14 095.8	Bilateral and other resources	11 840.9
25 837.4	**18 046.1**	**Total**	**14 140.9**
54 015.6	**44 187.2**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**42 434.0**

Table 17.8 **Post requirements**

Programme of work

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	8	8	–	–	–	–	8	8
P-5	20	20	–	–	13	4	33	24
P-4/3	61	62	–	–	11	3	72	65
P-2/1	20	21	–	–	–	–	20	21
Total	**109**	**111**	**–**	**–**	**24**	**7**	**133**	**118**
Other categories								
Local level	83	83	–	–	27	28	110	111
Total	**83**	**83**	**–**	**–**	**27**	**28**	**110**	**111**
Grand total	**192**	**194**	**–**	**–**	**51**	**35**	**243**	**229**

17.28 The estimated percentage distribution of resources among the subprogrammes would be as follows:

Subprogramme	Regular budget	Extrabudgetary
	(percentage)	
1. Regional economic cooperation	18.5	20.3
2. Development research and policy analysis	15.0	6.8
3. Social development	12.3	11.7
4. Population and rural and urban development	12.0	27.6
5. Environment and natural resources development	19.1	14.4
6. Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	14.1	13.1
7. Statistics	9.0	6.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Subprogramme 1
Regional economic cooperation

Table 17.9 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	1996-1997 expenditures	1998-1999 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	2000-2001 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	5 444.4	5 109.5	(582.7)	(11.4)	4 526.8	475.9	5 002.7
Consultants and experts	66.8	144.6	3.4	2.3	148.0	21.4	169.4
Travel	72.2	143.4	(57.6)	(40.1)	85.8	4.1	89.9
Contractual services	7.7	15.3	10.6	69.2	25.9	3.7	29.6
Total	**5 591.1**	**5 412.8**	**(626.3)**	**(11.5)**	**4 786.5**	**505.1**	**5 291.6**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996-1997 expenditures	1998-1999 estimates	Source of funds	2000-2001 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
366.5	214.7	UNDP	–
4 552.6	2 873.0	Bilateral and other resources	2 864.0
Total	**4 919.1**	**3 087.7**	**2 864.0**
Total (1) and (2)	**10 510.2**	**8 500.5**	**8 155.6**

Table 17.10 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Trade and Industry Division

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	4	4	–	–	6	–	10	4
P-4/3	14	11	–	–	1	–	15	11
P-2/1	3	4	–	–	–	–	3	4
Total	**22**	**20**	**–**	**–**	**7**	**–**	**29**	**20**
Other categories								
Local level	20	18	–	–	5	5	25	23
Total	**20**	**18**	**–**	**–**	**5**	**5**	**25**	**23**
Grand total	**42**	**38**	**–**	**–**	**12**	**5**	**54**	**43**

17.29 The subprogramme comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment, and subprogramme 3, Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology. The subprogramme is carried out by the Trade and Industry Division.

17.30 The overall objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen regional and subregional economic cooperation in promoting trade, investment and technology linkages and accelerating industrial development. For the biennium 2000–2001, the subprogramme will aim: (a) to enhance the national capacity of developing countries to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities emerging from the global environment for trade, investment and technology flows and industrial development; (b) to assist the developing countries, with particular attention to the needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, to accelerate their industrial and technological development and to promote their exports; (c) to enhance regional cooperation to promote trade efficiency and electronic commerce and to facilitate access to information technology; and (d) to enhance intraregional and subregional flows of trade, investment and technology, *inter alia*, through the strengthening of networks of institutional support services, including regional information services.

17.31 The subprogramme will be implemented through a concerted mix of research and operational activities. Based on policy analyses addressing emerging challenges and opportunities, a forum will be provided for continuing dialogue and cooperative action at the regional level. The capacity of Governments to respond effectively will be enhanced through technical assistance activities promoting exchange of experience and human resources development. The implications of globalization and liberalization for intraregional trade, investment and technology flows, as well as industrial development, will be analysed with particular focus on the more vulnerable groups of countries and the special needs of least developed countries, island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The need for capacity-building of national institutions will be identified in the context of changing regional economic development, and activities will be undertaken to strengthen those capabilities, *inter alia*, through institutional reform and networking.

17.32 Bilateral funding has provided a means to supplement and thereby strengthen the impact of the regular budget activities of the subprogramme, in particular through technical assistance. Regional cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and regional commissions will be pursued through

joint extrabudgetary project planning and implementation. ESCAP will also collaborate with and participate in activities of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Expected accomplishments

17.33 At the end of the biennium 2000–2001, it is expected that the following accomplishments will be achieved:

(a) Sensitization of policy makers in the developing countries to the emerging challenges and opportunities and assistance in identifying positive elements of common interest for future negotiations at the World the Trade Organization (WTO), as well as to emerging issues regarding industrial and technological development;

(b) Strengthened institutional and human capacities and cooperation for the promotion of industrial development, technology transfer and diversification of exports which are of strategic importance to least developed countries, landlocked countries and Pacific island countries, and countries with economies in transition;

(c) Increased awareness of the importance of capital markets for privatization and for the promotion of foreign investment inflows and investment promotion measures, as well as improved capacity of boards of investment to facilitate foreign direct investment;

(d) Strengthened institutionalized cooperation in trade, industry and technology through networks of information, research and training.

Outputs

17.34 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary and four committee sessions of the Commission; six plenary meetings of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation and twelve plenary meetings of its Steering Group; twelve plenary meetings of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement; and one meeting of a panel on the special theme topic of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. Commission. Annual report on issues relating to trade and industry; report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation; biennial report of the Steering Group of the Committee; and a report on development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis (also to be issued as an executive summary);

b. Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation. One report each on issues related to trade and investment and to industry and technology;

c. Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation. Annual reports on issues relating to trade and investment and to industry and technology;

d. Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement annual report;

(iii) Other services provided. One ad hoc expert group meeting each on: issues of common concern to developing countries on future multilateral trade negotiations; exchange rate regimes and trade performance; integration of industrial activities at the regional and global levels: prospects and challenges in an era of globalization and liberalization; promotion of new forms of financing for transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies; and emerging issues for trade facilitation and electronic commerce;

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific* (annual); *Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (annual); biennial *Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific*, tenth edition; and 24 issues of *TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin*;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Implications of the globalization of economic activities for industrial diversification and restructuring and technological development in Asian and Pacific economies: prospects and challenges in the twenty-first century; comparative assessments of policies and measures to promote industrial complementarities and investment in selected manufacturing sectors for selected Asian and Pacific economies; comparative assessment of and policy options for private sector development and privatization in least developed countries and countries with economies in transition; development and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, including agro- and agro-allied industries; new modalities for the transfer, financing and management of environmentally sound technologies; enhanced competitiveness of small and medium-sized industries through applications of new technology; promotion of new forms of technology transfer and technology partnerships within the context of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and trade-related investment measures; three studies on implications of the emerging trade agenda for developing countries; two guidebooks on trading and investing conditions; electronic commerce initiatives of ESCAP; exchange rates regimes and trade performance; and coping with external shocks and discontinuities in trade and investment: the role of regional cooperation and arrangements;

(iii) Technical material for outside users. Training material for personnel involved in the transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications; case studies, pilot projects, guidelines and recommendations for the adoption of the trade facilitation measures and standards, best practices and business strategies for electronic commerce to enhance micro-level efficiency in the conduct of international trade; training material/modules and information on trade facilitation measures and electronic commerce, both in paper and electronic format, such as the use of the Internet, for human resources development and sharing of information and experiences on a global scale; manuals on using capital markets to advance privatization and on investment promotion measures; and technical information in response to requests from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations, and dissemination of information;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)*. Annual organization and servicing of the Subcommittee on Trade and Industry of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific; collaboration and cooperation, as appropriate, with intergovernmental organizations, including WTO, World Economic Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Reinsurance Corporation (ARC), ASEAN, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the South Pacific Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Community, as well as non-governmental organizations; collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including FAO, ITC, UNDP and UNIDO; collaboration with regional commissions in the areas of trade, investment, industry and technology in developing interregional linkages and promoting information exchange and cooperation; technical and substantive support to the regional and international trade facilitation and electronic commerce organizations, such as the Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT) and the Asia Council for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices in Administration, Commerce and Transport (AFACT); technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology; technical, substantive and managerial support to the

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery; and technical and substantive support to SPECA and BIMST-EC;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of the Governments. Two advisory missions each on industrial investment promotion measures and on institutional support for industrial diversification and promotion of complementarities; and one each on promoting agro-industrial linkages and development of small and medium-sized industries, on institutional capacity- building for better application of new and environmentally sound technology, and on the creation of a climate conducive to investment-related technology transfer to countries with economies in transition and to least developed countries;

(ii) Group training. Three training workshops on WTO-related issues, including accession of non-WTO members; one regional seminar to review investment promotion measures; two regional seminars on training of trainers in industrial project preparation and management in least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition; one seminar each on capacity-building in trade policy for Central Asian economies, on the role of regional cooperation arrangements in coping with external shocks and discontinuities in trade and investment, on strengthening institutional capacity for commodity sector trade development, on enhanced competitiveness of small and medium-sized industries through applications of new technology, on enhancing capacity and networking of trade-related training institutions, and on trade and investment information access for countries with economies in transition; four workshops/national seminars on the strategies for promotion of exports and foreign direct investment in Indo-China and four meetings of the Private Sector Advisory Group and the Network of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Greater Mekong Subregion under the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China; annual promotion of intraregional trade through trade fairs and seminars; one investment forum for selected countries of the ESCAP region; annual workshops on promotion of agro-technical equipment for agro-industrial linkages in disadvantaged economies; one workshop on strengthening partnership among governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations for the greater application of environmentally sound technologies; annual training of personnel involved in transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications; training in standardization, metrology and quality control management systems for improved industrial competitiveness; annual workshops/seminars on capacity-building for the adoption of trade facilitation measures; and one workshop on networking for trade-related research for countries with economies in transition;

(iii) Field projects (country, subregional, regional). Four projects on building the capacity of enterprises in selected least developed countries and in countries with economies in transition to enhance their export competitiveness, including seminars, workshops and advisory services.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.35 The estimated resource requirements of $4,526,800, representing a decrease of $582,700, would provide for posts shown in table 17.10 above. These staffing requirements and resources for posts reflect: (a) the inward redeployment to this subprogramme of one P-2 post from subprogramme 5 and the outward redeployment from this subprogramme of one P-3 post each to subprogrammes 2, 3 and 6, one Local level post to subprogramme 2 to strengthen the support service of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Port Vila, Vanuatu, and another Local level post to subprogramme 3 to strengthen the support service of the Office of the Chief of the Social Development Division; and (b) the delayed impact of the abolition of two posts midway through the biennium 1998–1999.

Consultants and experts

17.36 An estimated provision of $148,000, representing an increase of $3,400, is proposed as follows: (a) $72,300, reflecting a decrease of $22,300, for specialized consultancy services not available in the secretariat (i) to assist and provide expert services in the preparation of studies on the implication of globalization of economic activities on industrial diversification and restructuring and on technological development in Asia-Pacific economies, the prospects for promoting complementarities and investment in selected manufacturing sectors, comparative assessments of means of privatization and lessons for countries with economies in transition, new modalities for transfer financing and management of environmentally sound technologies, enhanced competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises through the application of new technology; capacity-building to deal with the implications of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and trade-related investment measures for the promotion of technology transfer and development; (ii) to assist in the preparation of training materials for training of personnel involved in the transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications; and (iii) to prepare background papers on specific subjects to assist in the preparation of reports to the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, issues related to the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement for the third round of negotiations, exchange rate regimes and trade performance, and emerging issues for trade facilitation and electronic commerce and the WTO future trade agenda and implications for developing countries; and (b) $75,700, increased by $25,700, for five expert group meetings on integration of industrial activities at the regional and global levels: prospects and challenges in an era of globalization and liberalization, promotion of new forms of financing, transfer, development, and application of environmentally sound technologies, issues of common concern to developing countries in future multilateral trade negotiations, exchange rate regimes and trade performance, and emerging issues for trade facilitation and electronic commerce.

Travel

17.37 An estimated amount of $85,800, representing a reduction of $57,600 on the basis of expenditure patterns and redistribution of staff, is requested as follows: (a) $40,400, reflecting a reduction of $6,200, for travel of staff to attend the biennial session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and meetings related to trade, investment, industry and technology organized by intergovernmental and international organizations, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and regional commissions and to provide technical input to the SPECA Project Working Group on Restructuring of Manufacturing Industries with a View to Creating Internationally Competitive Enterprises; (b) $45,400, representing a reduction of $51,400, for (i) consultations among the Executive Heads of subregional organizations and ESCAP and with national Governments on issues related to the programme of work, such as collection of data and information on implications of globalization and liberalization measures for the industrial and technological development process of least developed and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, policies and measures to promote industrial complementarities and investment in selected manufacturing sectors for selected Asian-Pacific economies, new modalities for transfer financing and management of environmentally sound technologies, and new forms of technology transfer and partnership; (ii) provision of advisory services on promoting agro-industrial linkages and the development of small and medium-sized industries and on the creation of a climate conducive to investment-related technology transfer; and (iii) provision of technical and substantive support to subregional bodies and programmes, such as SPECA and BIMST-EC.

Contractual services

17.38 Estimated resources totalling $25,900, representing an increase of $10,600 for printing the Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific, the Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, the tenth edition of the Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific and studies on implications of the emerging trade agenda for developing countries and on exchange rates and trade performance.

Subprogramme 2
Development research and policy analysis

Table 17.11 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 244.1	3 430.2	144.9	4.2	3 575.1	337.0	3 912.1
Other staff costs	–	26.4	(26.4)	(100.0)	–	–	–
Consultants and experts	85.1	50.8	24.9	49.0	75.7	11.1	86.8
Travel	69.3	123.1	36.1	29.3	159.2	7.7	166.9
Contractual services	49.8	41.7	20.5	49.1	62.2	9.0	71.2
Total	**3 448.3**	**3 672.2**	**200.0**	**5.4**	**3 872.2**	**364.8**	**4 237.0**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
203.5	–	UNDP	–
1 635.4	1 570.0	Bilateral and other resources	968.1
1 838.9	**1 570.0**		**968.1**
5 287.2	**5 242.2**		**5 205.1**

Table 17.12 **Post requirements**

Organizational units: Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
P-5	3	3	–	–	–	–	3	3
P-4/3	7	8	–	–	1	–	8	8
P-2/1	3	3	–	–	–	–	3	3
Total	**15**	**16**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**–**	**16**	**16**
Other categories								
Local level	10	12	–	–	2	2	12	14
Total	**10**	**12**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**12**	**14**
Grand total	**25**	**28**	**–**	**–**	**3**	**2**	**28**	**30**

17.39 Subprogramme 2 comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 2, Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis, and subprogramme 10, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The subprogramme is carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

17.40 The principal objectives of the subprogramme are to increase the understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region, to highlight trends and emerging problems, to draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns and to advocate those policies which promote regional cooperation in economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of shared experiences and the growing complementarities among economies of the region. In addition to its own activities, the subprogramme monitors and coordinates ESCAP-wide activities on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The activities under this subprogramme will focus on: (a) monitoring, analysis and dissemination of recent developments in macroeconomic performance and related policies and their implications for development, particularly in the light of the Asian crisis, which occurred in mid-1997; (b) strengthening and improving coordination among policy-making institutions, especially those dealing with monetary, fiscal and financial sector policies and those responsible for overall development strategies; and (c) strengthening human resource capacity in institutions responsible for macroeconomic management.

17.41 The subprogramme will also give priority to issues relating to least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Particular attention will be given to supporting those countries' efforts at economic reform, mobilization and efficient utilization of resources, greater understanding of globalization issues, including their implications for trade and investment, problems of debt-servicing liabilities and greater appreciation of social sector and sustainable development issues.

17.42 The objectives of the subprogramme will be addressed mainly through advisory services, expert group meetings, workshops and training courses, with the prime objective of enhancing the development of human resources, especially the skills of public officials, promoting public-private sector cooperation as regards policy identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the identified areas, as well as facilitating the sharing of experiences and information among countries. For least developed

countries, these issues will also be addressed in the context of the final review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

17.43 The output and services funded from extrabudgetary resources will facilitate the sharing of experiences and information among the participating countries and enhance the assistance provided to the least developed, landlocked and Pacific developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The technical assistance programme under this subprogramme will comprise the provision of advisory services, workshops and training courses, with the prime objective of enhancing the development of human resources in the developing countries of the ESCAP region, especially the skills of national experts for policy identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in such areas as financial sector management, sustainable development, social impact of the economic crisis and poverty alleviation.

Expected accomplishments

17.44 By the end of the biennium 2000–2001, the expected accomplishments will include enhanced national capacity to deal with the emerging economic and social problems arising from the globalization and liberalization process in the ESCAP region, including the challenges faced by the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island countries of the ESCAP region, strengthened coordination among national policy-making institutions and enhanced regional cooperation.

Outputs

17.45 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary and four committee sessions of the Commission; four informal meetings on least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition; six plenary meetings of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation; six plenary meetings of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development; twelve plenary meetings of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; four plenary meetings of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries; four plenary meetings of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries; and the Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Regional report on the final review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

b. Commission on Sustainable Development. Report on the follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

c. Commission. Annual reports on the current economic situation and policy issues, a report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and a report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries;

d. Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. Three reports on issues related to Pacific island developing countries;

e. Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. Three reports on issues related to least developed and landlocked developing countries;

(iii) Other services provided. Two ad hoc expert group meetings on development issues and policies;

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* (annual); *Asia-Pacific Development Journal* (biannual); and *Development Papers* (annual);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Analysis of policy responses to the social impact of the economic crisis; policy issues related to the interdependence of development and environment issues in the context of the promotion of sustainable development; globalization, liberalization and volatility: policy issues arising for the financial sector; economic management and institutional capacity-building in least developed and Pacific island countries; and final review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

(iii) Electronic, audio and video issuances. Quarterly update of the ESCAP home page on development research and policy analysis on the World Wide Web; and the ESCAP Virtual Conference on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Decision-Making Processes (annual);

(iv) Special events. Annual launching of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)*. Collaboration and liaison with IMF, the World Bank and ADB on development issues and policies, including those relating to countries with economies in transition; inter-agency committees, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region working on economic development issues, strategies and policies; intergovernmental institutions, including the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), UNEP, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Mekong River Commission, on issues concerned with integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes; intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, World Bank, ILO, UNDP, UNIFEM and UNESCO, on poverty and social issues, strategies and policies; SPREP on the follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the Forum Secretariat and the secretariat of the Pacific Community on matters related to Pacific island developing countries; and the World Bank, IMF and ADB on matters related to least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of the Governments. Four advisory missions each on macroeconomic policy and economic reform in countries with economies in transition; policy responses to social impacts of the economic crisis; institution-building for integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes; macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in least developed and Pacific island developing countries; and promotion of sustainable development in small island developing States;

(ii) Group training. Two national workshops each on financial sector management and on strategies for poverty alleviation policy design, implementation and evaluation; one regional seminar each on achieving sustainable development in economies in transition: from stabilization to growth, and on policy responses to social impacts of the economic crisis and lessons for the future; four subregional workshops on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes; expert group meeting and high-level seminar on the final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; and one workshop on economic management and institutional capacity-building in least developed and Pacific island developing countries.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.46 The estimated requirement of $3,575,100, representing an increase of $144,900, would provide for the posts as shown in table 17.12. The increase in resources is the net effect of: (a) the inward redeployment of one P-3 and one Local level post from subprogramme 1 and one Local level post from subprogramme 7; and (b) the delayed impact of the abolition of 3 posts midway through the biennium 1998–1999. The redeployment of posts is to strengthen the capacity of this subprogramme to undertake studies and reports on economic and social development strategies and policies and to formulate and conduct research, as well as technical assistance projects, especially those related to sustainable development. The redeployed Local level posts would strengthen the support service of the Least Developed Countries Section and the ESCAP Operations Centre in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Commission, at its fifty-fourth session, accorded high priority to the work in this area.

Other staff costs

17.47 The provision of resources for some clerical support functions under general temporary assistance has been discontinued.

Consultants and experts

17.48 The estimated requirements of $75,700, reflecting an increase of $24,900, are requested as follows: (a) $57,300, increased by $19,100, for specialized consultancy services not available in the secretariat to prepare background country papers and analyses on specialized topics for the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, inputs to theme reports to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and to the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and inputs to the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; and (b) $18,400, reflecting an increase of $5,800, for two ad hoc expert group meetings to review and examine the draft studies on development issues and policies for the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*.

Travel

17.49 A provision of $159,200, reflecting an increase of $36,100, primarily related to the new SPECA and BIMST-EC activities is proposed for travel of staff as follows: (a) $69,100, reflecting an increase of $15,400, to attend meetings of the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Committee on Development Policy, to share with participants emerging issues of the region and to get feedback on global developments; for consultations with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to exchange views and coordinate the preparation of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* and the *World Economic Survey*; meetings of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board on matters related to least developed countries; the Commission on Sustainable Development on the follow up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community on matters related to macroeconomic reforms; for the Head of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre to attend the annual sessions of the Commission; to provide technical input to the SPECA Project Working Group on the International Economic Conference on Tajikistan and a Joint Strategy for Regional Development and Promotion of Foreign Investment; to participate in the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to assist the least developed countries in the ESCAP region in negotiations on the next programme of action; and (b) $90,100, reflecting an increase of $20,700, for travel of staff to collect country data and information and to consult with authorities in countries of the region on development issues and policies, in particular with least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, for which information is not easily available; to consult on the status of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and with intergovernmental organizations on macroeconomic reforms and sustainable issues for Pacific island countries; and to provide advisory services on promoting sustainable development in small island developing countries.

Contractual services

17.50 Estimated requirements of $62,200, reflecting an increase of $20,500, are requested for printing the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, the *Asia-Pacific Development Journal* and the *Development Papers*.

Subprogramme 3
Social development

Table 17.13 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 590.2	2 565.1	411.6	16.0	2 976.7	252.3	3 229.0
Consultants and experts	63.6	55.9	22.3	39.8	78.2	11.5	89.7
Travel	57.3	103.7	(9.3)	(8.9)	94.4	4.6	99.0
Contractual services	20.6	21.3	3.5	16.4	24.8	3.5	28.3
Total	**2 731.7**	**2 746.0**	**428.1**	**15.5**	**3 174.1**	**271.9**	**3 446.0**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
770.3	226.2	UNDP	–
–	25.8	UNFPA	–
2 421.4	3 216.8	Bilateral and other resources	1 650.7
3 191.7	**3 468.8**		**1 650.7**
5 923.4	**6 214.8**		**5 096.7**

Table 17.14 Post requirements

Organizational unit: Social Development Division

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	3	3	–	–	2	–	5	3
P-4/3	5	7	–	–	2	1	7	8
P-2/1	3	3	–	–	–	–	3	3
Total	**12**	**14**	**–**	**–**	**4**	**1**	**16**	**15**
Other categories								
Local level	6	8	–	–	3	4	9	12
Total	**6**	**8**	**–**	**–**	**3**	**4**	**9**	**12**
Grand total	**18**	**22**	**–**	**–**	**7**	**5**	**25**	**27**

17.51 Subprogramme 3 comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 5, Poverty alleviation: social development, and the component on women in development of subprogramme 6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Social Development Division.

17.52 The objective for the biennium will be to strengthen national capacity to promote social development as a means of alleviating poverty in the Asian and Pacific region. This objective will be achieved through three areas of intervention: (a) social policy and integration of disadvantaged groups; (b) human resources development; and (c) women in development. Activities will focus on strengthening the social policy and institutional framework to create an environment conducive to promoting the rights and needs of disadvantaged and socially excluded groups, especially the poor, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities. Another area of emphasis will be strengthening the capacity of social development personnel to promote the human resources development of key target groups, especially the poor and youth, through more effective planning and delivery of social services. Activities will also focus on promoting gender equality and the advancement of women through economic and social empowerment, as well as gender mainstreaming in the development process. In implementing activities, special attention will be given to the needs of the least developed and landlocked countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as those countries affected by the Asian regional economic crisis.

17.53 An important component of the subprogramme will be to provide regional support to the implementation of global mandates, including the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes; the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; and the Proclamation on Ageing. The subprogramme will also be guided by the following regional mandates: the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific; and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

17.54 The subprogramme will coordinate the ESCAP-wide activities related to gender issues so that a gender perspective is properly integrated into the mainstream of all areas of work of ESCAP.

17.55 The output and services funded from extrabudgetary resources under this subprogramme have been planned so as to add value to the programme of work funded by the regular budget. While regular budget resources are utilized for core outputs, the extrabudgetary resources are utilized to supplement those core outputs and enhance their impact at the national and local levels. For instance, the results of a desk study may be disseminated to a larger audience through extrabudgetary activities. At the same time, the deliberations or report from an extrabudgetary technical workshop may feed into the preparation of a regular budget desk study. This mutually supportive approach, utilizing both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, maximizes the value of outputs generated by the secretariat. Extrabudgetary resources also provide the means to prepare publications, establish databases, implement regional workshops, conduct seminars and implement projects to strengthen national and institutional capacities for social development planning and programming. These are also utilized to enable the secretariat to enhance its capacity to review and monitor regional and global mandates of the General Assembly and the Commission, as well as to promote further regional cooperation in the field of social development among ESCAP countries and territories, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

Expected accomplishments

17.56 By the end of the biennium 2000–2001, it is expected that the following accomplishments will be achieved:

(a) Increased attention given by national policy and programme personnel and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to development trends and programmes that impact on social development, focusing on poverty alleviation and social integration; the importance of promoting the rights and full participation in society of older persons, disabled persons and other disadvantaged and socially excluded groups, as central to development; key human resources development issues, including education and skills development, integrated approaches to health, and employment and income-generation; deepening poverty among women; measures to empower women; protection of women's rights as human rights through strengthened legal and institutional mechanisms, and promotion of integrated means to combat violence against women and trafficking in women and children; and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming and promotion of the advancement of women through national machineries for the advancement of women, non-governmental organizations and other civil society partners and through information networking;

(b) Development of options for policy measures and identification of best practices by which national policy makers and programme administrators in governmental and non-governmental sectors could address critical social challenges;

(c) Upgrading of skills of social development personnel in both the public and non-governmental sectors on effective planning and delivery of basic social services.

Outputs

17.57 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary and four committee sessions of the Commission; twelve plenary meetings of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; eight intergovernmental high-level meetings on progress in the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; eight plenary and eight working group sessions of the third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth; and a panel discussion on human resources development for youth: integrated approaches to youth health, focusing on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. The special session of the General Assembly to review the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. Regional report on the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

b. Commission. Annual reports on issues related to social development; report of the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; and a report on the outcome of the high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

c. Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas. Annual reports on issues related to social development and a report on the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action;

d. Intergovernmental high-level meeting on progress in the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. Two reports on issues relating to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region;

e. Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth. Reports on human resources development for youth: regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and integrated approaches to youth health, focusing on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention;

(iii) Other services provided. Ad hoc expert group meetings on regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region preparatory to the intergovernmental high-level meeting; participation of disabled persons in mainstream development; preparations for the third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth; and regional implementation of the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Social Development Newsletter* (biannual); *ESCAP Human Resources Development Newsletter* (biannual); *WINAP Newsletter* (biannual); and a monograph series on emerging issues on women in development in Asia and the Pacific (biannual);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Programmes for the empowerment and social integration of poor and disadvantaged groups; strengthening public policies for sustaining social development in times of crisis; the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific: goals and targets for 2000 and beyond; national policies and programmes on ageing and older persons in Asia and the Pacific: success cases; Pathfinders: towards full participation and equality of persons with disabilities in the ESCAP region; the state of human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: education, employment and health; review of the human resources development status of youth in the Asian and Pacific region; human resources development country monograph series on the youth situation, policies and programmes; guidelines for making microcredit more accessible to women; national machineries for women in Asia and the Pacific;

(iii) Electronic, audio and video issuances. Quarterly updates of ESCAP Home pages on the World Wide Web on social policy and integration of disadvantaged groups; human resources development; women in development; biannual update of the ESCAP Home page on the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; and three videotapes on the ESCAP human resources development award-winners and on health issues concerning youth: reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention;

(iv) Exhibits. Annual ESCAP human resources development award-winners; and biennial exhibit on human resources development for youth;

(v) Information kits. Four brochures and booklets on the ESCAP human resources development award; 40 fact sheets on the national human resources development situation in Asia and the Pacific; information kit for the third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth; and two booklets and information materials on critical human resources development issues;

(vi) Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.). Development, update and maintenance of databases on national action for implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, on a regional network of social development management information systems, on centres of excellence for human resources development, and on non-governmental organizations on women in the ESCAP region, and of the ESCAP/Uppsala University human resources development database on sexual abuse and exploitation of youth in Asia and the Pacific; human resources development training modules for poverty alleviation: focus on education and skills development, employment-creation and health promotion, for youth participation in development: focus on income-generation and entrepreneurship development, and for social and health development of sexually abused and exploited youth; focus on the linkage between substance abuse and sexual abuse and exploitation of youth; training needs assessment of youth in countries affected by the regional economic crisis; and human resources development information, education and communication materials to promote awareness of issues related to reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention among youth;

(vii) Annual special events. International Day of Disabled Persons; regional campaign to promote the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; and presentation ceremony for the ESCAP human resources development award;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB).* Organization and servicing of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittees on the Regional Social Development Agenda and Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, on Disability-related Concerns and on the Advancement of Women. Collaboration and cooperation, as appropriate, with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNICEF, UNCHR, UNDP, UNDCP, UNAIDS, UNESCO, ILO and WHO, on activities and programmes for social development; intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on regional programmes and activities for social development; United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNDP, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO and WHO, and non-governmental organizations on regional programmes and activities in support of the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing, the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific and other mandates relating to ageing and older persons; United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies, national institutions and non-governmental organizations on the promotion of the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the Pacific Forum, non-governmental organizations and international and national centres of excellence in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNFPA, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, UNAIDS, UNESCO, ILO and WHO, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the Regional Collective Consultation of Youth non-governmental organizations in Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Youth Councils, in regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes

and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, SAARC and the South Pacific Commission (SPC), development banks and non-governmental organizations in implementing the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of the Governments. Four advisory missions each on the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and regional follow-up to the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, focusing on the strengthening of national strategies for poverty alleviation; the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific; and the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. Two advisory missions each on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(ii) Group training. Four subregional workshops on mechanisms for government, private sector and non-governmental organization collaboration in planning, implementation and evaluation of social development programmes; two country-level training workshops for public administration personnel on the rights of disabled persons to full participation and equality in the development process; field study-cum-regional workshop/seminar on social safety nets for the poor and on poverty alleviation among rural persons with disabilities; annual meetings on critical social issues and programmes; regional training/workshops for government officials and officials of non-governmental organizations on the formulation and implementation of national plans of action on ageing, training of trainers on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for persons with disabilities and the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in mainstream gender equality initiatives; subregional training workshop for statisticians on the full participation and equality dimensions of disability statistics; four ESCAP subregional/national human resources development courses on poverty alleviation: focus on education and skills development, the creation of employment and the promotion of health and on social and health development of sexually abused and exploited youth; four ESCAP national human resources development courses for youth development in transitional and least developed countries and countries affected by the economic crisis; two ESCAP subregional/national human resources development seminars on integrated approaches to youth health: focus on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention; annual regional meetings on critical human resources development issues, on empowerment of women through poverty alleviation, improved access to productive resources and greater participation in the development process, on emerging issues and innovative approaches in advancing the status of women in a rapidly globalizing world economy and on the implementation of the Bangkok Accord and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women; two training workshops on promoting women's networking in modern information technology and on the promotion of women in business through entrepreneurship and skills development; and a meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women;

(iii) Fellowships. Annual ESCAP human resources development award.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.58 Estimated requirements of $2,976,700, reflecting an increase of $411,600, would provide for the posts shown in table 17.14. The resources reflect: (a) the inward redeployment of one P-3 post and one Local level post from subprogramme 1, one P-3 post from programme support and one Local level post from subprogramme 4 to strengthen the capacity of the subprogramme to undertake work required on the follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region, the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as to strengthen the support service of the Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups Section; and (b) the delayed impact of one post abolished midway through the biennium 1998–1999.

Consultants and experts

17.59 An estimated amount of $78,200, representing an increase of $22,300, is requested as follows: (a) $41,600, reflecting an increase of $4,200, for specialized consultancy services not available in the secretariat for the preparation of the following studies and other materials: reports on emerging issues related to social development; effective policies and programmes for poverty alleviation and social integration; study on the state of human resources development in Asia and the Pacific; discussion papers on integrated approaches to youth health for the third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth; review of the human resources development status of youth in Asia and the Pacific; training modules for the ESCAP human resources development courses for poverty alleviation; and background papers for the regional implementation of the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action; (b) $36,600, reflecting an increase of $18,100, for four ad hoc expert group meetings on: regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development; disabled persons' participation in mainstream development; regional preparations for the third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on human Resources Development for Youth; and regional implementation of the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Travel

17.60 A provision of $94,400, reflecting a decrease of $9,300, is required for travel of staff as follows: (a) $59,100, reflecting an increase of $18,100, to attend meetings of the relevant bodies of the United Nations and other organizations related to social development, human resources development, including matters pertaining to youth development, and women in development. These include representation at the annual sessions of the Commission on Social Development; the preparatory meetings for and the special session of the General Assembly on the outcome of the World Social Summit; meetings of other United Nations bodies related to aspects of human resources development (education, employment and health); inter-agency meetings and international consultations on preparations for the fourth session of the World Youth Forum and the second session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth; and sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Interagency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and the special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action; and (b) $35,300, reflecting a reduction of $27,400, to provide advisory services and consult Governments, intergovernmental organizations, national centres of excellence and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the outcome of the World Social Summit and the regional Social Development Agenda, the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; development of training modules and delivery of training for

the ESCAP human resources development course for poverty alleviation; and organization of a campaign to promote the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

Contractual services

17.61 A provision of $24,800, reflecting an increase of $3,500, is proposed for the printing of the following publications: *Social Development Newsletter*; *ESCAP Human Resources Development Newsletter*; *WINAP Newsletter*; *State of Human Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific*; and *Human Resources Development Status of Youth in Asia and the Pacific*.

Subprogramme 4
Population and rural and urban development

Table 17.15 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 715.8	3 228.8	(284.1)	(8.7)	2 944.7	271.8	3 216.5
Other staff costs	–	26.4	(26.4)	(100.0)	–	–	–
Consultants and experts	52.9	28.9	12.6	43.5	41.5	5.9	47.4
Travel	42.6	62.1	10.5	16.9	72.6	3.5	76.1
Contractual services	24.5	27.1	3.0	11.0	30.1	4.3	34.4
Total	**3 835.8**	**3 373.3**	**(284.4)**	**(8.4)**	**3 088.9**	**285.5**	**3 374.4**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
441.5	–	UNDP	–
2 509.6	1 903.5	UNFPA	2 000.0
1 203.3	1 546.5	Bilateral and other resources	1 902.2
Total	**4 154.4**	**3 450.0**		**3 902.2**
Total (1) and (2)	**7 990.2**	**6 823.3**		**7 276.6**

Table 17.16 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Population and Rural and Urban Development Division

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	3	3	–	–	1	1	4	4
P-4/3	8	7	–	–	1	2	9	9
P-2/1	1	2	–	–	–	–	1	2
Total	**13**	**13**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**3**	**15**	**16**
Other categories								
Local level	10	9	–	–	4	8	14	17
Total	**10**	**9**	**–**	**–**	**4**	**8**	**14**	**17**
Grand total	**23**	**22**	**–**	**–**	**6**	**11**	**29**	**33**

17.62 Subprogramme 4 comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 7, Poverty alleviation: population and development, and the components of rural development and urban development of subprogramme 6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division.

17.63 The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the technical, managerial and organizational capacity of government agencies and civil society organizations at all levels to formulate population, rural and urban development policies and programmes designed to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life.

17.64 During the biennium 2000–2001, the subprogramme will pursue these objectives through the organization of training workshops on reproductive health and population and development. Technical assistance will be provided to countries, upon request, in the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In preparation for the fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference scheduled for 2000, two preparatory meetings will be organized. Population information will be disseminated to policy makers and programme managers throughout the region through the publication of technical reports, a journal and newsletters and by electronic means. Information networks will be maintained and government and non-governmental organization staff in information technology will be trained. The subprogramme will aim to strengthen the capacity of Governments and non-governmental organizations to reduce rural poverty and enhance food security and sustainable agricultural development through normative research, advisory services, training, information dissemination and exchange of experience, in cooperation with other international organizations. To follow up the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), a high-level meeting, regional and local forums and seminars will be organized to enhance the capacity of and dialogue between local and national Governments and civic groups. In addition, the subprogramme will promote the dissemination of information on relevant experiences through Web sites, in order to strengthen the capacity of Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and other networks to address priority issues on shelter and provision of urban services, such as water, waste water and solid waste management, urban transportation and social services, in particular community-based services, which mainly benefit the urban poor in the Asian and Pacific region.

17.65 As a result of these activities, policy makers, programme managers, academics and educators will have gained knowledge concerning population and sustainable development linkages, rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development, and shelter and urban issues, and will have improved the technical skills needed for using that knowledge.

17.66 Extrabudgetary funding from UNFPA will be essential for carrying out operational activities in compliance with ESCAP resolution 54/4 of 22 April 1998, which calls for, *inter alia*, provision of assistance to developing countries and areas in the region, paying special attention to least developed countries, in the field of population and sustainable development, and for preparatory activities and reports on the implementation of the resolution at the fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to be held in 2002. Paragraph 11.26 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development highlights the importance of establishing national information mechanisms to facilitate the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of population-related information. Paragraph 11.17 of the Programme of Action also emphasizes that elected representatives at all levels should have access to information on population and sustainable development and related issues. Furthermore, at its fifty-fourth session, the Commission emphasized the need to focus more of ESCAP resources on operational activities, in particular those relating to national capacity-building. Publications, databases and training workshops will be delivered to users in response to those mandates.

Expected accomplishments

17.67 By the end of the biennium, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Strengthened capacity of government planning officers to incorporate population factors into development planning through improved research and evaluation of programmes;

(b) Delivery of regional inputs to the fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(c) Improved levels of skill at the national level in acquisition, processing, management and dissemination of information;

(d) Increased availability of population publications and databases on the Internet;

(e) Enhanced institutional development for rural poverty alleviation;

(f) Improved information on proper usage of agro-chemicals for sustainable agricultural development;

(g) Enhanced capacity of and dialogue between local and national government officials and civic groups to address emerging issues in urban governance;

(h) Strengthened capacity of Governments to monitor the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Outputs

17.68 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary and eight committee meetings of the Commission; and twelve plenary meetings of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. Commission. Annual reports of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; and five reports on issues related to population and rural and urban development;

b. Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas. Annual reports on issues related to population and development; report on issues related

to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development; and annual reports on issues related to urban development, including urban poverty;

(iii) Other services provided. Ad hoc expert group meetings on population database development and on gender and reproductive health in preparations for the fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* (8 issues); *Population Headliners* (12 issues); *Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives* (8 issues); *Agro-Chemical News in Brief* (10 issues); and a compendium of United Nations work programmes on rural poverty alleviation, 2000–2001;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Three studies on population and development, on migration and urbanization and on adolescent reproductive health; a manual for creating population directory databases; a country profile on plant nutrient sector development (annual); strengthening income-generating opportunities for rural women in selected Central Asian republics; rural employment promotion; and overview of housing rights in Asia and the Pacific;

(iii) Electronic, audio and video issuances. Updates of the ESCAP home pages on the World Wide Web on population, rural development and human settlements; and two training modules on population information technology on CD-ROM;

(iv) Information kits. ESCAP population data sheet and pamphlets for population information products (annual);

(v) Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.). Annual updates of the population directory database series, the database on family planning/reproductive health and population law, the database on reproductive health indicators and databases on projects and experts in human settlements development at the joint ESCAP/Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) human settlements Web site maintained by AIT; and development of an Asia-Pacific urban observatory in the form of a database for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)*. Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and national, regional and interregional bodies outside the United Nations system on matters related to population and development; cooperation and coordination, as relevant, with intergovernmental organizations, including the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), non-governmental organizations, and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Rural Development, on matters related to agriculture and rural development; technical and substantive support to Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tubers in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific; organization and servicing of four meetings of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on Population and Development, the annual meetings of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation and the four meetings of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Interorganizational Subcommittee on Urbanization; coordination of programme activities with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda; technical and substantive support to regional networks in the field of human settlements development, including the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), the Asian Coalition for Human Rights (ACHR), the International Union of Local Authorities/Asia and Pacific Council (IULA-ASPAC), the Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes

in Human Settlements (TRISHNET) and the Network of Local Government Training Institutes (CIVICNET);

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of Governments. Advisory missions as follows: four on the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; five on adolescent reproductive health; four on population information systems/services; two on demographic analysis; two on information management on agro-chemicals; and four on review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization at national and local levels;

(ii) Group training. Pre-Conference Seminar on Migration and Development; workshops on population and development, Web publishing and population information dissemination, population information repackaging, privatization of urban infrastructure and service delivery and its impacts on the urban poor and capacity-building of local government training institutes; annual regional training workshop on adolescent reproductive health; human resources development to improve access to and dissemination of population information through the use of information technologies; cooperation between the Population Information Network (POPIN) and non-governmental organizations on population information activities: information needs assessment workshop; training workshop on information technology as a tool for training: training for trainers; regional seminars/workshops on the integrated plant nutrition system concept implementation, on policies and programmes on rural poverty alleviation, on sustainable agricultural development strategies for Asia and the Pacific, on the impact of the Asian economic crisis on rural poverty alleviation, on Internet-based networking for sustainable fertilizer information management in Asia and the Pacific, on the promotion of civic engagement in urban management and on urban challenges to local governments in a globalizing world; subregional seminar on strategies to enhance rural employment; policy seminars on curbing rampant speculation in land and property markets and ensuring equitable access to land and property markets and on strengthening women's participation in local government (Women Mayors' Summit, 2000); and seminar on regional network for integrated pest management and green farming.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.69 Estimated requirements of $2,944,700, reflecting a reduction of $284,100, would provide for the posts shown in table 17.16. These staffing requirements reflect: (a) the outward redeployment of one P-4 post to subprogramme 7 to strengthen the capacity of the Statistics Development Section and one Local level post to subprogramme 3 to strengthen the support services of the Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups Section, and the inward redeployment of one P-2 post from programme support to strengthen the capacity of this subprogramme to undertake the collection and dissemination of information on rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture, especially through electronic media, and to implement activities related to rural poverty alleviation; and (b) the delayed impact of the abolition of four posts midway through the biennium 1998–1999.

Other staff costs

17.70 The provision of resources for some clerical support functions under general temporary assistance has been discontinued.

Consultants and experts

17.71 An estimated amount of $41,500, representing an increase of $12,600, is required as follows: (a) $25,300, reflecting an increase of $8,100, to cover specialized consultancy services not available in the secretariat to prepare background papers on the status, problems and techniques for developing various types of databases, a study on population and development and emerging issues related to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development; (b) $16,200, reflecting an increase of $4,500, for ad hoc expert group meetings on population database development and on the preparations for the fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.

Travel

17.72 An estimated amount of $72,600, representing an increase of $10,500, is required as follows: (a) $32,700, reflecting an increase of $6,800, for travel of staff to represent ESCAP at meetings of the Commission on Population and Development, the Technical Committee on the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), other meetings related to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development, the Commission on Human Settlements, the Executive Committee of CITYNET, the Executive Committee of IULA-ASPAC, the Urban Design Forum, the TRISHNET Steering Group and the Bangalore Local Government Forum; and (b) $ 39,900, reflecting an increase of $3,700, for travel of staff to provide advisory services on the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adolescent reproductive health, population information systems/services development and implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and to gather information, discuss and consult with Governments, local officials and experts concerning emerging issues related to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development.

Contractual services

17.73 A provision of $30,100, reflecting an increase of $3,000, is proposed for the printing of the following publications and data sheets: *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*, *Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives*; compendium of United Nations work programmes on rural poverty alleviation, 2000–2001; overview of housing rights in Asia and the Pacific; and *ESCAP Population Data Sheet*.

Subprogramme 5
Environment and natural resources development

Table 17.17 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	6 257.9	4 958.5	(266.0)	(5.3)	4 692.5	410.9	5 103.4
Other staff costs	–	26.4	(26.4)	(100.0)	–	–	–
Consultants and experts	80.1	69.7	13.5	19.3	83.2	12.0	95.2
Travel	71.7	82.7	19.6	23.7	102.3	5.1	107.4
Contractual services	50.1	48.3	(3.1)	(6.4)	45.2	6.6	51.8
Total	**6 459.8**	**5 185.6**	**(262.4)**	**(5.0)**	**4 923.2**	**434.6**	**5 357.8**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
2 866.2	723.5	UNDP	–
4 167.5	2 870.9	Bilateral and other resources	2 041.2
7 033.7	**3 594.4**		**2 041.2**
13 493.5	**8 780.0**		**7 399.0**

Table 17.18 Post requirements

Organizational unit: Environment and Natural Resources Development Division

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	4	4	–	–	1	1	5	5
P-4/3	13	13	–	–	2	–	15	13
P-2/1	5	4	–	–	–	–	5	4
Total	**23**	**22**	**–**	**–**	**3**	**1**	**26**	**23**
Other categories								
Local level	14	14	–	–	7	4	21	18
Total	**14**	**14**	**–**	**–**	**7**	**4**	**21**	**18**
Grand total	**37**	**36**	**–**	**–**	**10**	**5**	**47**	**41**

17.74 Subprogramme 5 comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 4, Environment and sustainable development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division.

17.75 The overall goal of this subprogramme is to strengthen national capacity in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in June 1997 (resolution S–19/2).

17.76 The focus of the subprogramme is on supporting the efforts of member and associate member Governments in the formulation and implementation of policies which integrate environmental considerations into overall social and economic development plans, as well as in specific sectors, such as energy, water, mineral and marine resources, land use and urban planning. At the national level, this entails improving regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks, medium- and long-term integrated planning and strategy development, the use of economic instruments for sustainable consumption and production patterns and general awareness-raising and educational activities relating to sustainable development. The main thrust of the work is on human resources development through technical assistance and training activities. In addition to the need to strengthen human resources, a major constraint faced by the developing countries of the region is the lack of financial resources for the implementation of sustainable development policies and strategies. To address this issue, the work of the subprogramme will also include consideration of ways to involve multilateral and private sector partners in the development of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

17.77 At the subregional and regional levels, the subprogramme will continue to strengthen cooperative mechanisms to address common environmental problems. The work of the subprogramme will include building on the initiatives established under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, established at the 1994 Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the various networks relating to international environmental conventions, in particular those on climate change and desertification. The secretariat will continue to service the meetings and workshops of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. Furthermore, efforts will be made to strengthen cooperation with other subregional

organizations in the various sectors. The achievements and activities of regional programmes and country experiences will be disseminated through publications and other modalities.

17.78 A major event to be organized during the biennium will be the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to be held in 2000. The Conference, the fourth of its kind to be organized by ESCAP, will review the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region and highlight the most critical environmental issues faced by the countries at the start of the new century. One of the main outputs of the biennium will be the regional input to the ten-year review of Agenda 21, scheduled to be held in 2002.

17.79 During the biennium 1998–1999, a number of countries of the region experienced some of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The biennium 2000–2001 will place greater emphasis on the strengthening of policies and capacity for better preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters, including through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development three-tier network and continued support to the Typhoon Committee, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Forum on Urban Geology for Asia and the Pacific. Efforts will be made to encourage national Governments to improve interministerial and intraministerial coordination, to formulate integrated natural disaster mitigation plans and to operationalize natural disaster management programmes using space technology applications.

17.80 Extrabudgetary resources are indispensable to the secretariat for implementing those elements of the programme of work which are aimed at capacity-building and human resources development, as well as continued support for regional and subregional initiatives in the various sectors. Extrabudgetary resources are spent mainly on group training activities, and some are used for printing non-recurrent publications, including training materials, as well as for meeting the cost of an expert in energy efficiency and conservation who will continue to provide advisory services and to implement technical training activities.

Expected accomplishments

17.81 At the end of the biennium, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Enhanced national capacity for integrating environmental considerations into economic and social policies; improvement of energy efficiency and conservation potentials; wider application of renewable energy technologies; formulation and implementation of integrated development and management policies in the water, mineral and marine resources sectors; natural disaster preparedness and mitigation; and application of space technology through human resources development activities;

(b) Comprehensive regional review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and international environmental conventions;

(c) Strengthened regional and subregional cooperation on environment;

(d) Development of the Minimum Common Programme on space technology applications.

Outputs

17.82 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary meetings and four committee sessions of the Commission; six plenary meetings of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development; twelve plenary meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development; annual sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and biennial sessions of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. Commission. Reports of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999, and the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000; and annual reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources;

b. Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development. Two reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources; a report each on issues related to natural disaster preparedness and mitigation, on follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999, and on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000;

c. Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development. Six reports;

(iii) Other services provided

a. Ad hoc expert group meetings on strategic planning towards a sustainable energy future: policy options, barriers and action plans; water use efficiency and conservation; and space technology applications on the Minimum Common Programme;

b. Assistance to intergovernmental bodies under their established mandates. Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme (annual);

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. *ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter* (quarterly); *ESCAP Energy News* (biannual); *Energy Resources Development; Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1997 and 1998*, *Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region; Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management* (annual); *Atlas of Urban Geology; Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region; Water Resources Journal* (quarterly); *Confluence* (biannual); *Water Resources Series* (annual); *Space Technology Applications Newsletter* (quarterly); *Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System Journal* (annual);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. State of the environment in Asia and the Pacific, 2000; guidebook on pollution control in coal-fired power plants; environmental challenges into the twenty-first century; Asia-Pacific input to the ten-year review of Agenda 21; sustainable development indicators; financing of energy efficiency projects in the Asian and Pacific region; guidebook for the promotion of sustainable energy consumption; assessment of water resources and water demand by user sectors; proceedings of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999; study on a policy framework relating to technology fusion and convergence on the information superhighway; and two studies on space technology applications for sustainable development and natural resources management;

(iii) Electronic, audio and video issuances. Quarterly update of the following ESCAP home pages on the World Wide Web: environment; energy; water and mineral resources; and space technology applications for sustainable development;

(iv) Exhibits. Annual exhibits for World Water Day and for International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day;

(v) Information kits. Annual pamphlets for World Water Day and for International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day and a brochure for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB).* Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the private sector on the implementation of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000; intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, BIMST-EC, SAARC, ECO, ADB and the World Bank, academic institutions, including AIT, non-governmental organizations and the private sector on matters relating to energy resources; intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, SAARC, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the Mekong River Commission, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, ECO, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Subcommission for the Western Pacific, non-governmental organizations, including CITYNET, and the private sector on matters relating to sustainable development of land, water and mineral resources; intergovernmental organizations, including the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, on matters related to space technology applications; FAO and IAEA, on matters relating to energy resources; United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources (hosting of the twenty-first session in 2000) and the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, on matters related to natural resources and natural disaster reduction; United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on matters related to space technology applications; collaboration and technical substantive support for SPECA, the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones; and organization and servicing of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Subcommittee on Water and Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of Governments. Advisory missions as follows: three on strategic environment planning and implementation of environment conventions; four on sustainable development and management of energy resources, energy efficiency policy measures in supply and demand side management, and promotion of renewable energy technologies; four on water and mineral resources development and management, environmental geology and natural disaster reduction; and two on space technology development and applications for environment and sustainable development;

(ii) Group training

a. Seminars, meetings and workshops as follows: four on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia; two on integration of environmental considerations into economic and social decision-making, including strategic environmental planning; one on regional implementation of international environmental conventions; four on water and mineral resources development and management; and two on natural disaster reduction and environmental and urban geology;

b. Regional, subregional and national meetings and workshops as follows: three to promote the implementation of Agenda 21, including environmental assessment, pollution control, sustainable development indicators and coastal environmental management; six on sustainable energy development and management, promotion of energy efficiency in industries, commercial enterprises, residential sector and/or electrical appliances and promotion of regional cooperation in the marketing of renewable energy technologies; and four on space technology applications for natural resources management and natural disaster mitigation;

c. Eight meetings of regional working groups on various space applications sectors; two dialogue forums on harmonization of regional initiatives on space technology applications; two regional seminars on development of space technology applications for the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development phase II (Minimum Common Programme);

d. Arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries to facilitate exchange of information on sustainable energy sector development and transfer of technologies for the promotion of energy efficiency and enhanced use of renewable sources of energy; and arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries in the areas of water and mineral resources development and management, natural disaster reduction and environmental management;

(iii) Fellowships. Twenty long-term fellowships on space technology applications and twenty medium-term fellowships on space technology applications;

(iv) Field projects (country, subregional, regional). Four pilot projects on space technology applications for natural resources management and natural disaster mitigation.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.83 An estimated amount of $4,692,500, reflecting a reduction of $266,000, would provide for the posts shown in table 17.18. The required staffing resources take into account: (a) the outward redeployment of one P-2 post to subprogramme 1 and (b) the delayed impact of the abolition of three posts midway through the biennium 1998–1999.

Other staff costs

17.84 The provision of resources for some clerical support functions under general temporary assistance has been discontinued.

Consultants and experts

17.85 An estimated provision of $83,200, reflecting an increase of $13,500, would be required as follows: (a) $45,100, reflecting an increase of $9,700, to cover specialized consultancy services not available in the secretariat for the preparation of the brochure for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000; analysis of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000, to facilitate its implementation and identify the challenges into the twenty-first century; the development and maintenance of the energy home page and the environment home page, including information relating to the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development; a study on policy options, barriers and recommended action plans for sustainable energy development in the Asian and Pacific region; background papers on water use efficiency and conservation; a study on assessment of water resources and water demand; *Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region; Atlas of Urban Geology; Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management;* and studies on space technology applications for sustainable development and natural resources management; and (b) $38,100, reflecting an increase of $3,800, for ad hoc expert group meetings on strategic planning towards a sustainable energy future: policy options, barriers and action plans, on water use efficiency and conservation, and on space technology applications relating to the Minimum Common Programme.

Travel

17.86 An estimated provision of $102,300, reflecting an increase of $19,600, would be required as follows: (a) $64,900, reflecting an increase of $21,100, for travel of staff to attend meetings of the relevant bodies of the United Nations and other organizations related to environment, management of natural resources and space technology applications, including, in particular, the Commission on Sustainable Development,

the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the Mekong River Commission, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, the Typhoon Committee, and the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing; and to provide technical input to the SPECA Project Working Group on Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources; (b) $37,400, reflecting a reduction of $1,500, to provide advisory services to Governments and to consult intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, and subregional environmental organizations for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000; to gather information and consult Governments for the preparation of the regional input to the Commission on Sustainable Development; and to provide advisory services on various issues relating to environment and natural resources, including energy and mineral resources sectors.

Contractual services

17.87 An estimated provision of $45,200, reflecting a reduction of $3,100, would be required for the printing of the following publications: *ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter; Energy Resources Development; Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1997 and 1998; Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region; Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series; Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region; Water Resources Series; Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System Journal;* environmental challenges into twenty-first century; brochure on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000; study on assessment of water resources and water demand by the user sector; and proceedings of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999.

Subprogramme 6
Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

Table 17.19 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 636.8	3 481.0	52.9	1.5	3 533.9	300.7	3 834.6
Other staff costs	–	13.2	(13.2)	(100.0)	–	–	–
Consultants and experts	–	–	43.8	–	43.8	6.4	50.2
Travel	37.5	47.5	10.4	21.8	57.9	2.8	60.7
Contractual services	1.0	2.1	4.3	204.7	6.4	0.9	7.3
Total	**3 675.3**	**3 543.8**	**98.2**	**2.7**	**3 642.0**	**310.8**	**3 952.8**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 estimates	Source of funds	2000–2001 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
926.0	400.4	UNDP	–
2 540.6	1 653.0	Bilateral and other resources	1 854.4
Total	**3 466.6**	**2 053.4**		**1 854.4**
Total (1) and (2)	**7 141.9**	**5 597.2**		**5 807.2**

Table 17.20 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	2	2	–	–	3	2	5	4
P-4/3	10	11	–	–	4	–	14	11
P-2/1	3	3	–	–	–	–	3	3
Total	**16**	**17**	–	–	**7**	**2**	**23**	**19**
Other categories								
Local level	10	10	–	–	4	3	14	13
Total	**10**	**10**	–	–	**4**	**3**	**14**	**13**
Grand total	**26**	**27**	–	–	**11**	**5**	**37**	**32**

17.88 Subprogramme 6 comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 8, Transport and communications. The subprogramme is carried out by the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division.

17.89 The focus of work to be undertaken by this subprogramme will be in line with the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (phase 1). Particular attention will be paid to addressing the special concerns of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. The subprogramme will also include gender-mainstreaming activities in transport and tourism. The activities for the biennium are aimed at formulating and formalizing regional rail, road and inland waterway routes, and at establishing a legal basis for international traffic to move on those routes. Significant progress is expected to be achieved in the formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes, and in the accession status of ESCAP members and associate members to the conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992. Activities will be undertaken to increase awareness of the public and private sectors of the various policy

options available for improving the efficiency of transport facilities, logistics and services in the region, as well as for strengthening their capabilities in adopting commercially oriented policies and practices.

17.90 With a view to increasing awareness of emerging issues in transport, and to create a sound basis for participatory approaches to sustainable development of transport in the region, a wealth of data and information on transport and related issues will be made available to policy makers, and group training activities will be implemented to enhance national capacity. Assistance will also be provided to increase the knowledge base of policy makers and the public at large of environmental, health and safety issues in transport.

17.91 Assistance will also be provided to member and associate member Governments in strengthening national capabilities in policy formulation and planning of tourism, and to promote regional and subregional cooperation in tourism development.

17.92 For many of the subprogramme outputs, the initial focus will be on senior policy makers, policy advisors and other actors who are in a position to initiate or influence the direction of policy changes. This will be followed by activities designed to assist working-level officials who are responsible for implementing programmes and projects. The subprogramme's outputs will also be used by international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups, as well as the private sector.

17.93 Users will be reached through participation in intergovernmental and expert group meetings and study tours; dissemination of information via technical publications, guidelines, newsletters and the Internet; networking of institutions; conduct of group training activities; and provision of advisory services.

17.94 Extrabudgetary resources are utilized to supplement and complement the work undertaken using regular budget resources by providing data and information, studies, group training and advisory services to strengthen national capabilities in transport and tourism planning. Staff funded by extrabudgetary resources will assist in undertaking technical studies in their respective areas of expertise, making technical presentations at group training activities and providing advisory services to member Governments at their request. Extrabudgetary resources will help in making progress towards formulation and formalization of regional transport networks and in establishing a legal basis for the movement of international traffic on those routes, and will contribute towards increasing awareness among decision makers of emerging issues in the transport and tourism sectors and strengthening national capabilities to address those issues.

Expected accomplishments

17.95 By the end of the biennium 2000–2001, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Completion of the formulation of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway;

(b) Increased awareness of the use of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway for international trade and tourism;

(c) Accession by a significant number of Asian countries to the conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11;

(d) Progress towards the development of regional transport infrastructure agreements and harmonization of navigation rules and regulations along the Mekong River; and improvement of the environment for private sector participation in infrastructure development and operations;

(e) Increased awareness by decision makers of the options available for adopting more commercially oriented approaches to the development and operation of transport facilities and services, including those related to the environment, human health and safety;

(f) Strengthened capacity of tourism planners in policy formulation and planning in tourism;

(g) Increased cooperation among national tourism organizations and tourism education and training institutes.

Outputs

17.96 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary meetings and four committee sessions of the Commission; six plenary meetings of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development; 10 plenary meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. Commission. Annual reports of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development; report on the implementation of Commission resolution 52/9 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges; and annual reports on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific;

b. Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development. Report on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific; and four reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development;

c. Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure. Five reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development;

(iii) Other services provided. Ad hoc expert group meetings on regulatory issues in the transport sector and on the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Recurrent publications. *Review of the Developments in Transport, Communications, Tourism and Other Infrastructure* (biennial); *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* (annual); *ESCAP Tourism Review* (annual); and *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter* (annual);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Guidelines for Asian Highway promotion; revised Asian Highway network; restructuring of railways; Trans-Asian Railway development; revised guidelines for environmental impact assessment in the road sector; road safety database; integrated transport systems; strengthening the capabilities of regulatory bodies related to the provision of infrastructure facilities and services; guidelines for the harmonization of navigation rules and regulations; training materials for multimodal transport; port pricing and investment policy; regional maritime strategy for containerization; human resources development in the maritime sector; policy issues on sustainable tourism development; and policy issues related to tourism infrastructure development, investment and facilitation of travel;

(iii) Electronic, audio and video issuances. Quarterly update of the ESCAP home page on transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development on the World Wide Web; and biannual updates of the ESCAP home pages on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway;

(iv) Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.). Refining and updating of the ESCAP database on transport and infrastructure; and updated maritime information on the Internet;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)*

(i) Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), ASEAN, BIMST-EC, ECO, the European Union, the Forum Secretariat, IDB, the Mekong River Commission, the Organization of Railways Cooperation (OSShD), SAARC and the World Bank, with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including other regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNCITRAL, ILO, ICAO, ITU, IMO and UPU, with non-governmental organizations, including the Global Infrastructure Fund ASEAN Port Authority (APA), ASEAN Freight Forwards Association (AFFA), the Association of Shippers' Council of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (ASCOBIPS), the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), the International Railway Congress Association (IRCA), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congress (PIANC) and the World Development Council, and with the private sector, including the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific and SPECA;

(ii) Collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and other tourism-related organizations on tourism development activities;

(iii) Participation in a network of centres of excellence in urban transport planning;

(iv) Organization and servicing of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of the Governments. Advisory missions as follows: two each on land transport development and facilitation, shipping and port development, international logistics and multimodal transport, and HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the transport industry; one each on participatory planning of rural infrastructure, an integrated approach to transport planning, development of inland water transport and strengthening national capabilities in tourism development; and technical assistance on integration of non-motorized transport into urban transport;

(ii) Group training

a. Seminars/workshops as follows: two on transport infrastructure development and facilitation and one on investment financing and planning of inland water transport; one on tourism infrastructure development, investment and facilitation of travel; and one on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the transport industry;

b. Training workshops on an integrated approach to transport planning;

c. Promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development;

d. Country-level seminars/workshops. One on participatory planning of rural infrastructure and one on shipping policy development;

e. International conference on inland water transport;

f. Two subregional/national workshops on development of multimodal transport;

g. Regional seminars. One on port management and commercialization and one on tourism planning and development;

h. Annual regional meetings on promotion of tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion and on promotion of cooperation in tourism development and training;

i. Arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries on tourism development and training.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.97 An estimated amount of $3,533,900, reflecting an increase of $52,900, would provide for the posts shown in table 17.20. The required staffing resources take into account: (a) the inward redeployment of one P-3 post from subprogramme 1 to strengthen the capacity of this subprogramme to undertake work in relation to research/studies on the socio-economic impact of tourism, ecotourism and foreign tourism investment; the incumbent would also be responsible for the implementation of work related to development and maintenance of databases for monitoring and evaluation of national and regional tourism development; and (b) the delayed impact of the abolition of two posts midway through the biennium 1998–1999.

Other staff costs

17.98 The provision of resources for some clerical support functions under general temporary assistance has been discontinued.

Consultants and experts

17.99 A new provision of $43,800 is required as follows: (a) $14,600 for specialized expertise not available in the secretariat for the preparation of the biennial review of the developments in transport, communications, tourism and other infrastructure; and (b) $29,200 for ad hoc expert group meetings on regulatory issues in the transport sector and on the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Travel

17.100 An estimated provision of $57,900, reflecting an increase of $10,400, would be required as follows: (a) $40,400, reflecting an increase of $4,500, to attend meetings of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing, ASEAN, ECO, SAARC, ASEAN Freight Forwarders and the APEC Transportation Working Group; and (b) $17,500, reflecting an increase of $5,900, to consult and coordinate with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, UNCTAD, OSShD, Union internationale des chemins de fer, IRU, BIMST-EC, IMO, APA, PATA (Asia Division and Pacific Division) and the World Tourism Organization to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

Contractual services

17.101 An estimated provision of $6,400, reflecting an increase of $4,300, would be required for the printing of the following publications: *Review of the Developments in Transport, Communications, Tourism and Other Infrastructure* and *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*.

Subprogramme 7
Statistics

Table 17.21 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 315.7	2 111.3	125.9	5.9	2 237.2	290.3	2 527.5
Consultants and experts	27.8	18.0	(0.1)	(0.5)	17.9	2.6	20.5
Travel	46.3	46.6	(5.7)	(12.2)	40.9	1.9	42.8
Contractual services	46.4	31.5	5.8	18.4	37.3	5.4	42.7
Total	**2 436.2**	**2 207.4**	**125.9**	**5.7**	**2 333.3**	**300.2**	**2 633.5**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
31.6	–	UNDP	–
735.1	456.2	UNFPA	300.0
466.3	365.6	Bilateral and other resources	560.4
1 233.0	**821.8**	**Total**	**860.4**
3 669.2	**3 029.2**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**3 493.9**

Table 17.22 Post requirements

Organizational unit: Statistics Division

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-4/3	4	5	–	–	–	–	4	5
P-2/1	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
Total	**8**	**9**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**8**	**9**
Other categories								
Local level	13	12	–	–	2	2	15	14
Total	**13**	**12**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**15**	**14**
Grand total	**21**	**21**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**23**	**23**

17.102 Subprogramme 7 comprises the work that had been carried out in 1998–1999 under subprogramme 9, Statistics. The subprogramme is carried out by the Statistics Division.

17.103 Consistent with the terms of reference of the Commission, the main objectives of this subprogramme are to continue to facilitate the development of sustainable national statistical capabilities in the Asian and Pacific region; to disseminate comparable social, economic and other relevant statistics on the regional members and associate members of the Commission; and to promote the effective utilization of information technology within the public sector. The main activities are: (a) to assist and provide substantive and other services to the Committee on Statistics, which plays a central role in promoting and coordinating regional statistical development; (b) to organize technical cooperation activities, including advisory services and technical seminars, and disseminate technical materials, with the aim of promoting skills development and sharing of experiences and technical knowledge in statistics and information technology; (c) to organize workshops and training programmes in statistics and information technology, especially in association with the statistical training programmes of SIAP; (d) to prepare, review and coordinate at the regional level the development and revision of statistical standards and their eventual implementation; (e) to undertake the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information on the region and to provide statistical support for analytical work undertaken within the secretariat; and (f) to maintain close collaboration and cooperation with relevant regional, subregional and international organizations to promote improved coordination of technical assistance in statistics.

17.104 The end-users of the outputs of this subprogramme are national statistical offices, computerization and information technology focal points, and planning, monitoring and decision-making agencies in the member and associate member Governments; regional, subregional and international organizations; non-governmental organizations; national and international institutes; scholars concerned with economic, social, demographic and environmental research and policies; and individual firms and persons. In implementing the subprogramme, the secretariat will take due account of the different stages of statistical development among countries of the region, paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. Greater reliance will be placed on enhanced cooperation among countries and coordination of inputs from statistically advanced countries.

17.105 The United Nations Statistical Commission, ESCAP and its Committee on Statistics have emphasized the need for timely and relevant high-quality information in national planning and implementation of policies and programmes designed to attain sustainable economic growth and social development. Extrabudgetary resources are expected to contribute to the secretariat's efforts to strengthen the capacity of countries to identify, produce and disseminate data needed for their economic and social development, and to create more effective information technology policies. The Commission, the Bali Declaration on Population and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development have urged Governments to improve their population data production and dissemination capacity, especially by assigning priority to the application of modern information technology. Funding from UNFPA is expected to help the secretariat to assist countries in their efforts to improve their capacity to collect, process and disseminate such data. In particular, this will be done by sharing the experiences of advanced countries, good practices and information on lessons-learned to help developing countries to make progress and avoid wasting resources on experimentation.

Expected accomplishments

17.106 By the end of the biennium 2000–2001, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Improved coordination of and collaboration on statistical development and statistical standards in the region;

(b) Increased national capacity in development of statistical information systems and use of information technology.

Outputs

17.107 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Twelve plenary meetings and four committee sessions of the Commission; six plenary meetings of the Committee on Statistics; and biennial sessions of the Statistical Commission;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. Commission. Report on issues related to statistics; report on progress achieved and difficulties encountered by members and associate members in addressing the Y2K problem; and report of the Committee on Statistics;

b. Committee on Statistics. Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts; and reports on selected issues in statistical development, issues in computerization in the public sector, an integrated presentation of work programmes on statistics in the region and activities of the secretariat since the eleventh session of the Committee;

(iii) Other services provided. One meeting of the Working Group of Statistical Experts;

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Recurrent publications. Eight issues of the *Statistical Newsletter*; four issues of the *Government Computerization Newsletter*; the annual *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific*; *Foreign Trade Statistics for Asia and the Pacific*; eight issues of *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*; and the annual *Asia-Pacific in Figures*;

(ii) Electronic, audio and video issuances. Monthly updates of ESCAP home pages on statistics and public sector computerization;

(iii) Exhibits. One exhibit for the Committee on Statistics;

(iv) Information kits. Wall charts on general statistics;

(v) Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.). Data and information disseminated through electronic media (CD-ROM, diskettes, etc.); operation and maintenance of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS); and responses to ad hoc requests from outside users for statistical information;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB).* Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including the East-West Center and the Pacific Community; non-governmental organizations, including the International Statistical Institute; and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Working Group of Statistical Experts, regional conferences of statisticians, city groups and the FAO Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics; the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; and technical and substantive support to UNFPA country support teams in the region and to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Advisory services at the request of the Governments. Advisory missions as follows: two on analysis and dissemination of population data and utilization of census data; and two on organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services and on the development of government information systems and the efficient use of information technology;

(ii) Group training. Annual seminars for senior managers on organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services; regional workshops as follows: two on socio-economic and environment statistics, three on various aspects of population statistics, including sampling applications, and three on various aspects of economic statistics.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.108 The estimated requirement of $2,237,200, reflecting an increase of $125,900, would provide for the posts as shown in table 17.22. The required staffing resources take into account the inward redeployment of one P-4 post from subprogramme 4 to strengthen the capacity of this subprogramme to undertake work in promoting national statistical capabilities and technical cooperation in key thematic areas, including socio-economic and environment statistics, as recommended by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, and the outward redeployment of one Local level post to subprogramme 2 to strengthen the support service of the Least Developed Countries Section.

Consultants and experts

17.109 An estimated provision of $17,900 is requested as follows: (a) $9,600 to cover consultancy services involving specialized expertise not available in the secretariat for preparing a statistical study and for enhancing the statistical publications and other materials as follows: study on topic(s) selected for consideration of the Working Group of Statistical Experts, *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific*; *Foreign Trade Statistics for Asia and the Pacific*, *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*, *Asia-Pacific in Figures* and wall charts on general statistics; and (b) $8,300 for the meeting of the Working Group of Statistical Experts.

Travel

17.110 An estimated provision of $40,900, reflecting a decrease of $5,700, is requested for travel of staff as follows: (a) $35,400, reflecting a reduction of $11,200, to attend meetings of the relevant bodies of the United Nations and other organizations related to statistics, including representation at the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination; and (b) a new provision of $5,500 to undertake technical consultation and liaison on statistical and public sector

computerization matters with regional/subregional organizations and expert groups of topical interest which were not provided in the biennium 1998–1999.

Contractual services

17.111 An estimated amount of $37,300, reflecting an increase of $5,800, would be required for the printing and binding of the following mandated recurrent publications and wall charts: *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific*; *Foreign Trade Statistics for Asia and the Pacific*; *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*; and *Asia-Pacific in Figures*.

D. Programme support

Table 17.23 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	21 885.0	21 757.8	(498.6)	(2.2)	21 259.2	4 313.5	25 572.7
Other staff costs	361.2	600.7	252.2	41.9	852.9	123.6	876.5
Travel	24.1	54.9	(5.6)	(10.2)	49.3	2.4	51.7
Contractual services	191.1	155.7	11.8	7.5	167.5	24.3	191.8
General operating expenses	4 630.7	3 342.0	60.8	1.8	3 402.8	493.1	3 895.9
Hospitality	9.6	10.3	–	–	10.3	1.5	11.8
Supplies and materials	518.6	563.3	(32.5)	(5.7)	530.8	76.8	607.6
Furniture and equipment	1 204.4	875.0	182.3	20.8	1 057.3	153.1	1 210.4
Total	**28 824.7**	**27 359.7**	**(29.6)**	**(0.1)**	**27 330.1**	**5 188.3**	**32 518.4**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
1 420.7	1 315.9	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	1 040.6
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
–	–	UNDP	–
114.7	–	UNFPA	–
280.9	5 182.4	Bilateral and other resources	6 141.1
1 816.3	**6 498.3**	**Total**	**7 181.7**
30 641.0	**33 858.0**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**39 700.1**

Table 17.24 Post requirements

Organizational units: Programme Management Division and Administration Division

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
P-5	6	7	–	–	1	–	7	7
P-4/3	38	37	–	–	2	1	40	38
P-2/1	9	8	–	–	–	–	9	8
Total	**55**	**54**	**–**	**–**	**3**	**1**	**58**	**55**
Other categories								
Local level	203	203	–	–	15	14	218	217
Field Service	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Total	**204**	**203**	**–**	**–**	**15**	**14**	**219**	**217**
Grand total	**259**	**257**	**–**	**–**	**18**	**15**	**277**	**272**

17.112 Programme support comprises programme management, library services, conference services and administration and common services.

Outputs

17.113 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Programme management.* The Programme Management Division provides substantive and secretariat services to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as to meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. It coordinates the planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the work programme of the Commission, including its programme of technical cooperation activities, in accordance with the mandates of the Commission and the United Nations global bodies. In addition, the Division assists and advises the Executive Secretary in establishing coherent policy and strategic guidelines on programme planning and the operational activities of ESCAP, as well as on the mobilization, management and use of regular and extrabudgetary resources. It also provides assistance in the management of extrabudgetary resources and the backstopping of technical assistance projects to the three regional institutions subsidiary to ESCAP, namely, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) in New Delhi, the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific in Bogor, Indonesia, and SIAP in Tokyo;

(b) *Library services.* Provision of library and information technology services, as well as advisory and training services, concerning the information system, in response to the work programme of the ESCAP secretariat, staff of United Nations agencies in Bangkok and the public and private sector;

(c) *Conference services.* Coordination and provision of conference services to meetings of the policy-making organs and other intergovernmental meetings held under the auspices of ESCAP; and provision of editorial services, translation, text processing and printing of documents and publications;

(d) *Administration and common services.* Provision of administrative and support services related to human resources management, financial administration and resource planning, and use of common

services to support the implementation of the work programme, including (i) recruitment, placement, career development, staff training, staff administration, staff counselling and medical services; (ii) overall coordination of budgets, financial management, control and treasury services; (iii) general services, including buildings management, security and safety, communications, procurement and transportation; and (iv) electronic data-processing services.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

17.114 The estimated resource requirement of $21,259,200, reflecting a decrease of $498,600, would provide for the posts shown in table 17.24. These requirements reflect: (a) the proposed reclassification of one P-4 post to P-5 to implement the post classification level for the chief of the Editorial Services Section and of one Field Service post to P-4 to supervise the Technical Services Unit within the Electronic Services Section; (b) the outward redeployment of one P-3 post to subprogramme 3 and one P-2 post to subprogramme 4; and (c) the delayed impact of nine posts abolished midway in the biennium 1998–1999.

Other staff costs

17.115 The estimated requirements of $852,900, reflecting an increase of $252,200, would provide for the following: (a) $361,400, increased by $159,800, for general temporary assistance during periods of peak workload and to cover the replacement of staff on extended sick leave and maternity leave ($201,600) and to provide continuing support for IMIS operations subsequent to completion of installation ($159,800); (b) $176,900, at maintenance level, for overtime in periods of peak workload and night differential; and (c) $314,600, increased by $92,400, for contractual security, a part-time human resources/staff counsellor in response to recommendations of the Office of Human Resources Management and the Staff-Management Coordination Committee and other clerical services.

Travel

17.116 The estimated requirements of $49,300, reflecting a reduction of $5,600, would provide for: (a) travel for consultations at Headquarters with ESCAP institutes and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre at Port Vila, Vanuatu, on programme coordination and administrative, financial and personnel matters; (b) travel of conference services staff to attend the annual sessions of the Inter-agency Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications and the Joint Inter-Agency Meeting on Computer-assisted Translation and Terminology; and (c) travel for the Librarian to represent the United Nations/ESCAP at selected regional Library/information technology seminars;

Contractual services

17.117 The estimated requirements of $167,500, reflecting an increase of $11,800, relate to language training; the annual contract for software support and maintenance services covering operating system and systems software; upgrading of existing system administration, database management, application development and user-oriented software tools; contractual design and development of software for ready access of ESCAP data and information through the Internet, and on CD-ROM; contractual design and development of modules to accommodate the direct submission of data by participating countries for entry into ESIS; and the second phase of the contractual design and development of the ESCAP Programme Monitoring System. The increase of $11,800 is due to the increased requirements for resources for language training and for data-processing services.

General operating expenses

17.118 The estimated resources of $3,402,800, reflecting an increase of $60,800, would provide the following: (a) $999,400, increased by $10,700, for rental and maintenance of premises; (b) $1,287,500 for utilities (electricity, water, fuel and oil); (c) $107,200 for rental of photocopying equipment and vehicles, reflecting a reduction of $38,600; (d) $92,800 for rental and maintenance of data-processing equipment, increased by $50,500 for the maintenance of Cabletron local area network (LAN) devices and hardware maintenance

services for LAN servers; (e) $504,300 for communications (postage, cables, telephone, telex and pouch), reflecting a reduction of $23,900; (f) $230,500 for maintenance of furniture and equipment, including *inter alia* the ESCAP share of the maintenance and support of the LAN technical infrastructure (including central servers) necessary for the support of central management servers, increased by $4,300; and (g) $181,100 for miscellaneous services, including freight, general insurance, bank charges and other services, increased by $58,500 owing to increased requirements for all risk insurance, bank and miscellaneous charges.

Hospitality

17.119 The estimated amount of $10,300, at the maintenance level, would provide for official functions, including the celebration of United Nations Day.

Supplies and materials

17.120 An estimated amount of $530,800, reflecting a reduction of $32,500, is requested for office supplies and materials, internal reproduction supplies and library books and supplies.

Furniture and equipment

17.121 An estimated provision of $1,057,300, reflecting an increase of $182,300, is requested as follows: (a) $80,800 for replacement of office furniture and equipment, increased by $50,400, in particular to replace photocopying machines; (b) $784,200, increased by $181,000, for acquisition and replacement of automation equipment and related software; the increase in resources is for additional LAN servers and gateways to meet the ongoing demand by secretariat users for increased processing power and storage capacity and for the acquisition of additional network devices to re-engineer the LAN network as necessary to accommodate traffic loads and to improve traffic flow and response times; (c) $38,800 for replacement of printing equipment and of conference-servicing equipment, reflecting a reduction of $71,500; (d) $41,900 for transportation equipment, maintained at 1998–1999 levels, to replace two vehicles; (e) $65,100, increased by $26,900, for communications equipment; and (f) $46,500, reflecting a reduction of $4,500, for other equipment, including building maintenance, security and safety, and miscellaneous equipment, such as drinking water cooler units, lockers for buildings maintenance staff, etc.

Table 17.25 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 1997 (A/53/5, vol. 1, chap. II)	
The Board recommends that the Administration establish the conference centres of ECA and of ESCAP as separate cost centres and that all costs associated with their operation be apportioned to them for more accurate determination of their profitability (para. 162).	ESCAP's activities and services relating to the Conference Centre will be operated under Income section 3 in the biennium 2000–2001. Further to the management audit of the conference centres and subsequent discussions and consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, which took place in the third quarter of 1998, a feasibility study on the various uses of the centres and their profitability will be undertaken by the end of 1999. Meanwhile, ESCAP shall continue maximizing use of the Conference Centre. Separate income and expenditure accounts have been established to record all costs associated with the operation in order to determine its profitability.
The Board recommends that the Administration of ESCAP ensure that appropriate staff are allocated to projects after priorities have been identified (para. 214).	In their review of project management, the auditors had referred to two particular cases, one concerning improvement of the statistics on women in the ESCAP region and the second concerning development of a computerized statistical information system (ESIS) at ESCAP. The first project is now closed, and the printing of the final two profiles is in process. In the second case, recruitment for the post of a Statistical Database Administrator, whose services are a prerequisite for any significant progress with ESIS, is at an advanced stage. In efforts to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to programme areas, the redeployment of regular budget posts in the context of ESCAP restructuring and programme budget exercises has been undertaken in two phases, the first phase of which was effected as of 15 July 1998. The redeployment reflected priorities expressed by member States in a questionnaire circulated in February 1997, by allocating more regular budget staff resources to the programme areas related to the development of tourism and the area involving the above two cases (statistics). (See also the response below to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (para. V.6)).

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/7, chap. II, part V)	
The Committee recommends that the format of presentation of programmes of activities of the regional commissions be reviewed with a view to delineating more clearly substantive activities vis-à-vis programme support and harmonizing the budget presentation (paras. V.4 and V.44).	This proposed programme budget harmonizes the format of presentation of the programme of activities of the regional Commissions. The new presentation concerns a standardized presentation of the parts on executive direction and management and programme support. In each section of the regional commissions, the part on executive direction and management now includes the activities and resources related to the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of the Commission and the unit/structure dealing with information services. Similarly the part on programme support includes the activities and resources related to (a) administrative and common services (including programme planning, budget and finance; human resources management; general services); (b) conference and library services; and (c) management of technical cooperation. The format of presentation of the parts on policy-making organs and programme of work has always been harmonized and has therefore not been modified.
The Committee notes that the level of resources proposed for programme support in some regional commissions continues to be high in relation to resources requested for the programme of work. In this regard, the Committee reiterates its view, contained in paragraph V.7 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996–1997 (A/50/7), that the requirements for programme support should have been considerably lower and that the resources thus released could have been diverted to substantive activities (para. V.5).	ESCAP's programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 includes the proposed redeployment of two regular budget posts in the Professional category (one P-3 and one P-2) from the programme support to programme areas, with a view to increasing the allocation of regular budget resources to substantive activities. The programme support costs of ESCAP include the expenses of the conference services and common service, which are clearly directly related to the substantive divisions. Common service include such items as computer and office equipment, furniture, office and other supplies, communications costs, office and building maintenance and utilities. The possibility of decentralizing the common service costs from programme support to the respective programme of work was considered. However, to ensure cost-effectiveness and optimal use of limited regular budget non-staff costs, and to avoid increasing administrative procedures required of substantive divisions, ESCAP decided to continue with the central management of the common service expenses under programme support.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Budget submissions should indicate the extent of review by intergovernmental organs of the programmes of work of the Commission and its various organizational and institutional issues, including intergovernmental structure. The submission should identify the financial implications resulting from intergovernmental reviews, as well as proposed reallocation within the same budget section of released resources to other priority issues. All increases in requirements resulting from intergovernmental reviews should also be indicated in the budget submissions (para. V.6).	The draft programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 pertaining to subprogrammes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were reviewed by the respective legislative committees during the period from September 1998 to March 1999. As the General Assembly had reduced the duration of the legislative committee meetings from five working days to three working days by its resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997, the legislative committees conducted a review of the respective programme of work at the programme area level rather than at the output level. The draft programme of work of ESCAP was reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at its regular session, on 28 January 1999, and will be further reviewed by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, scheduled to meet from 22 to 28 April 1999. The outcome of the Governments' assessment in response to the 1997 questionnaire on the regular budget resource allocations of ESCAP to the 1996–1997 programme of work, and the subsequent mandates and priorities of the Commission in 1997 and 1998, specifically called for allocation of additional regular budget resources to: (a) statistics; (b) tourism; (c) research and analysis on the causes and consequences (both economic and social) of the financial crisis, and the actions necessary to overcome them; and (d) regional implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region. More allocation of regular budget staff and non-staff resources have been proposed for these four areas in ESCAP's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Committee recommends that future budget submissions identify publications initiated by the secretariats, including studies to be undertaken by consultants, and indicate more clearly intended users of United Nations publications, both recurrent and non-recurrent. The Committee also reiterates its view, reflected in paragraph 76 of its first report on the proposed budget for the biennium 1996–1997, that the secretariat should indicate to the relevant intergovernmental bodies the number, type, cost and audience of each publication, the date intended for publication, the date when each publication was first requested, who requested such publication, when it was last reviewed and by whom. (para. V.7).	Starting with the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, ESCAP has differentiated its recurrent and non-recurrent publications into two categories, namely, "mandated" and "discretionary". Moreover, ESCAP reduced a number of "discretionary" recurrent and non-recurrent publications for the biennium 2000–2001, with a view to rationalizing its publications programme. In May 1997, the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission constituted an open-ended informal working group to undertake in-depth reviews of, *inter alia*, ESCAP recurrent publications for 1998–1999. In August 1997, the Working Group reviewed the profile of each of the 41 recurrent publications, including the mandate, the general contents, the intended readership, the readership survey, the source of funding (direct costs), the issuance dates for the past five years, distribution and stock, and sales record, where applicable. As a result of the review, the readership survey was made mandatory for all ESCAP publications and the Publications Committee, established in 1993 but which had not met since early 1994, was reconstituted. The member and associate member Governments were advised of the result of the exercise at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, held in April 1998. The Publications Committee completed the draft of a "Guide to ESCAP publication activities", to assist ESCAP staff members in preparing publications and to contribute to the overall improvement in the quality of ESCAP publications.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
	For the programme budget exercise for the biennium 2000–2001, ESCAP introduced a revised publication proposal form, which requires the author divisions to provide detailed information, including the intended users, source of funding, etc., which can be made available to member and associate member Governments. A number of member and associate member Governments of the Commission, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing States expressed their concern over the shift in mode of information dissemination from the traditional publications to the electronic issuance, namely, the Internet. They cautioned that a large number of the intended audience in these countries was not yet adequately equipped with the necessary information technology hardware. They therefore requested the secretariat to ensure that the needs of the primary end-users of ESCAP technical publications in those countries would be met.
The Committee draws attention to its comments and observations in paragraph 83 of chapter I and points out also that requirements for consultants in future budget submissions should be prepared in accordance with such guidelines which the General Assembly may wish to establish as a result of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy guidelines on consultants to be submitted in accordance with section VI, paragraph 4, of Assembly resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997 (para. V.8).	ESCAP has reviewed the consultancy funds requested under the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 and has ensured that they are kept to the minimum to cover specialized consultancy services not available in the secretariat and mandated outputs/ activities.
The Advisory Committee recommends that the description of international cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison be significantly improved so that Member States are provided with a clear picture of how these activities relate and contribute to other quantifiable and/or identifiable mandated activities (para. V.10).	A full description of international cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison is provided in ESCAP's programme budget proposals for the biennium 2000–2001. Travel required for international cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison are quantified and the source of funding is also identified in each annex of its budget submission to Headquarters.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Advisory Committee notes that proposed estimates for travel in the budget submissions for ESCAP, ECE and ECLAC show various rates of growth. The Committee recalls, in this connection, its earlier observation that, with the advent of technological innovations and the on-line availability of information, expenditures in this area could, in some cases, be considerably lowered (see A/50/7, para. V.8). The Committee reiterates its position on the matter and requests that additional measures be taken to reduce travel costs in ESCAP, ECE and ECLAC in future budgets (para. V.11).	ESCAP has been mandated by the General Assembly and the Commission to provide assistance to new regional institutions/programmes, such as BIMST-EC and the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, for which additional travel funds are required.
The Committee welcomes the intention to increase electronic dissemination of information. The Committee trusts that the next budget submission of ESCAP will reflect savings and other benefits resulting from electronic dissemination of information (para. V.46).	As indicated above, during the review of the ESCAP publications programme for the biennium 1998–1999, a number of member and associate member Governments of the Commission, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing States, expressed serious concern over the shift in the mode of information dissemination from the traditional publications to electronic issuance, namely, the Internet. They cautioned that a large number of the intended audience in these countries was not yet adequately equipped with the necessary information technology hardware. They therefore requested the secretariat to ensure that the needs of the primary end-users of ESCAP's technical publications in these countries would be met.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audits of the regional commissions (A/52/776)	
The Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended that, in the context of the progressive reorganization of the Commission's work on a thematic basis, ESCAP ensure the quality and relevance of publications on a continuous basis. The response of ESCAP management was pending as of the date of the report (para. 25).	In December 1997, the Executive Secretary reconstituted the Working Group on Publications and renamed it the "ESCAP Publications Committee". The Executive Secretary also requested that readership surveys be intensified and undertaken as an integral part of all publications produced by ESCAP, in order to assess the relevance and usefulness of the publications for the target groups concerned. The objectives of the exercise were to streamline the ESCAP publications programme in the context of the United Nations reform exercise, and to ensure that only quality publications were produced in the most time-efficient and cost-effective manner. The Publications Committee established three working groups to address various aspects of its work, namely (a) publications and related issues, including joint printing arrangements, sales of publications, mailing lists of recipients, desktop publishing, cost-effectiveness of printing funds, electronic dissemination and readership surveys; (b) review and update of the guidelines developed in 1993; and (c) quality control. The Committee met 13 times in 1998 and completed its report, which consists of a summary of recommendations arising from the analysis undertaken by the three working groups, together with the draft of a Guide to ESCAP publications activities. The Guide is intended as a reference tool to assist ESCAP staff members in preparing publications and to contribute to the overall improvement in the quality of ESCAP publications.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
	Some salient features of the Committee's recommendations are: (a) the outline of steps towards institutionalizing a peer review; (b) attribution of authorship to consultants as incentive for producing quality outputs of the highest standard possible; (c) assignment of more responsibility and credibility to officers directly concerned, in addition to the overall responsibility of the division directors; (d) periodic review by the Office of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP publications as a whole, with a view to improving the future publications programme and to providing feedback to the divisions concerned; (e) special importance should be attached to the Guide to serve as a handbook for the production of quality manuscripts; (f) promotion of the use of electronic publishing technologies to save time and cost; (g) ESCAP's mailing list of sales publications should be critically reviewed from time to time, in consultation with the divisions concerned, with a view to updating and streamlining it, as appropriate; and (h) evaluation, including standardization of readership surveys to the extent possible, provision of incentives to target readers and recipients to attract feedback from them, and establishment of a line of communication with the United Nations Publications Office to collect feedback on sales of ESCAP publications.
	The Publications Committee's report, together with the draft of the Guide, was submitted in January 1999 to the Executive Secretary for approval and adoption.
The Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended that ESCAP expeditiously establish the trust funds for which contributions had already been received, close all completed projects and determine the disposition of unspent balances in consultation with donors. The response of ESCAP management was pending as of the date of the report (para. 42).	ESCAP fully endorses the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services with regard to the importance of and the need for expeditious programming of extrabudgetary funds available to it for specific projects and activities in consultation with the donors concerned. Those funds include new annual contributions of donors, along with savings of completed projects funded with the previous years' annual contributions, as well as the interest income accrued to each donor programme.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
	It may be useful to point out that, while intended contributions may be announced by donors at the annual Commission session (normally held in April), the actual payment of such intended contributions is usually made towards the end of the year. Nevertheless, such intended contributions are meant for utilization in the following calendar year. To expedite programming, ESCAP now undertakes an annual extrabudgetary project formulation exercise, normally during the months of May–August of a calendar year, based on the announcement by donors at the annual session of intended contributions. Packages of project proposals resulting therefrom are then submitted to the various traditional donors for consideration and approval for implementation in the subsequent year. In 1997, ESCAP also managed to obtain cooperation and support from one of its major traditional donors (Japan) in expediting its review and approval process, which resulted in approval of new project proposals towards the end of December 1997 and in January 1998. Prior to this, approval had been received by ESCAP only in May of the following year. This has greatly expedited the programming schedule. ESCAP will continue its efforts in ensuring expeditious programming of extrabudgetary funds with other donor programmes.
The Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended that ESCAP establish an independent security function within its Electronic Services Section with overall responsibility for the security of the Commission's technological environment. The Office further recommended that ESCAP develop a disaster recovery plan in order to provide a level of system dependability that satisfied the requirements of both ESCAP and Headquarters (para. 69).	The reclassification of one Field Service post to P-4 is proposed for undertaking the functions required to implement these recommendations.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Proposed 2000-2001 organizational structure and post distribution